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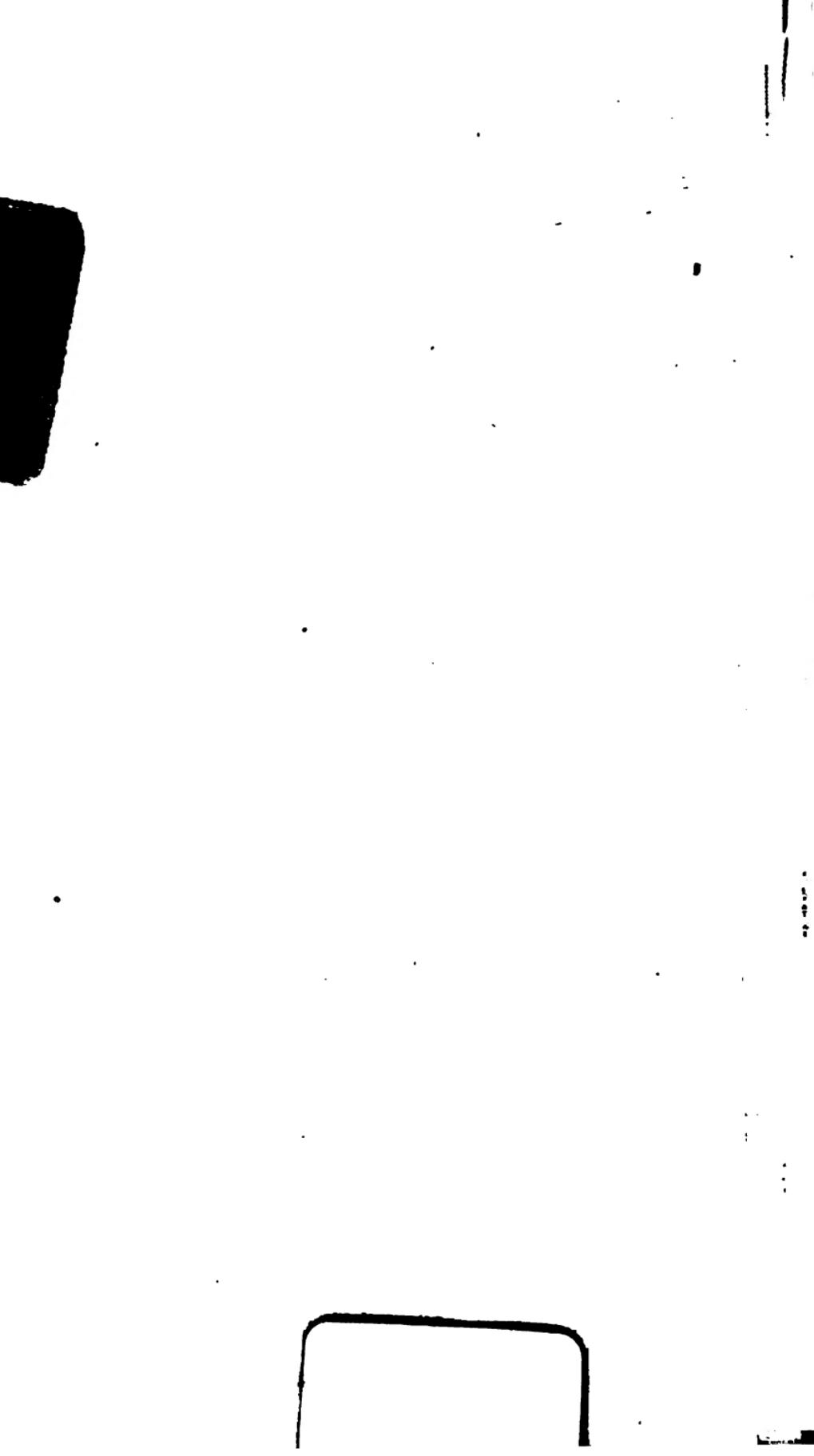
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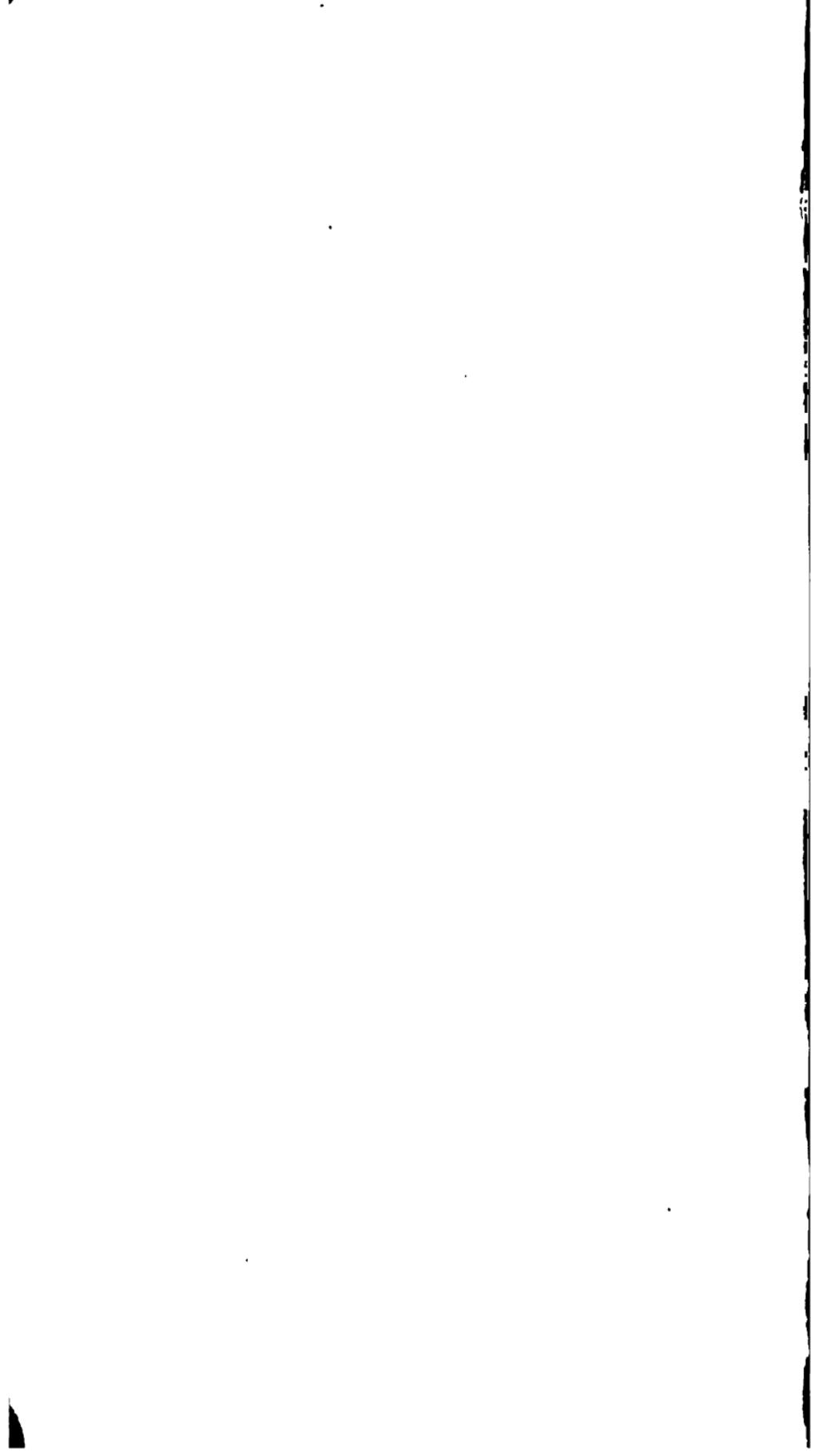
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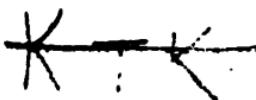




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Sinclair

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**THE**

**STATISTICAL ACCOUNT**

**OF**

**1798**

**SCOTLAND.**



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.  
DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
MINISTERS  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME TWELFTH.

*"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."*  
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.



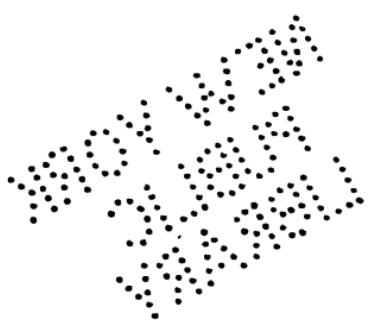
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M,DCC,XCIV,



# C O N T E N T S.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	1791-3.	Incr.	Decr.	Page.
1.	Peebles,	-	1896	1920	24	1
2.	Dalkeith,	-	3110	4366	1256	18
3.	Pettinain,	-	330	386	56	28
4.	Coldingham,	-	2313	2391	78	43
5.	Abbey of St. Bathans,	-	80	164	84	61
6.	Southdean,	-	480	714	234	67
7.	Keir,	-	495	520	25	73
8.	Barr,	-	658	750	92	81
9.	Dalry,	-	1498	2000	502	90
10.	Barony of Glasgow,	-	3925	18,451	14,546	109
11.	Cairny,	-	2650	2600	-	90
12.	Weem,	-	1295	1364	69	130
13.	Cullen,	-	900	1,214	314	143
14.	Olrick,	-	875	1052	176	156
15.	St. Vigeans,	-	1,551	3,335	1,784	165
16.	Kirriemuir,	-	3409	4,358	949	187
17.	Kennay,	-	643	641	-	199
18.	Glenmuick, Tulloch, and Glengairn,	2,170	2,157	-	153	215
19.	Kinghorn,	-	2352	1,755	-	621
20.	Cromarty,	-	2095	2,184	88	245
21.	Kilmuir Wester and Suddy,	-	668	1,805	1,137	262
22.	Forgue,	-	1,902	1,778	-	279
23.	Ruthven,	-	280	220	-	290
24.	Auchterleis,	-	1,264	1,200	-	306
25.	Jura and Colonfay,	-	1097	1,858	761	317
26.	Girvan,	-	1,193	1,725	532	335
27.	Northmaven,	-	1,009	1,786	777	346
28.	Traquair,	-	651	446	-	369
29.	Nairn,	-	1,698	2,400	702	381
30.	Monktown and Prestick,	-	* 582	717	135	394
31.	West Kilbride,	-	885	698	-	404
32.	Kirkmichael,	-	1,288	1,276	-	425
33.	Saddel and Skipness,	-	1,369	1,341	-	475
34.	Auchindoir,	-	839	572	-	490
35.	Dysart,	-	2,367	4,862	2,495	502
36.	Markinch,	-	2,188	2,790	602	525
37.	Lyne and Megget,	-	265	160	-	556
38.	Cambusnethan,	-	1,419	1,684	265	568
39.	Aberdour,	-	1,397	1,306	-	575
40.	Fetteresso,	-	3,082	† 3,370	288	591
41.	Wamphray,	-	458	487	29	602
42.	Eikdalemuir,	-	675	619	-	607
Totals, —		59,600	85,315	27,818	2103	
Increase in 1791—93. —			59,600	2,193		
			25,715	25,715		

\* In Dr. Webster's report, the Parish of Monktown, Prestick, and Newtown upon Ayr, is said, in 1755, to have contained 1,163 souls, one half of which, it is supposed, might belong to Monktown and Prestick.

† This was the population in 1790.

metaphor

## *E R R A T A.*

Page 15,	line 12,	<i>for</i>	point,	<i>mark</i>	comm'd.
— 177,	— 8,	—	breach,	<i>read</i>	branch.
— 369,	— 7,	—	flopping,	—	sloping.
—	— 11,	—	favours,	—	favour.
— 448,	— 11,	—	intereci,	—	interfui.
— 504,	— 29,	—	vulcantia,	—	vulcania.
— 582,	line last,	—	distant of,	—	distant.



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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

## SCOTLAND.

### PART XII.

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#### NUMBER I.

#### PARISH OF PEEBLES.

(COUNTY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE,  
PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES.)

*By the Rev. WILLIAM DALGLIESH, D. D.*

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#### *Name and Situation of the Town and Parish.*

PEEBLES, the name of the burgh and parish, in the oldest writings *Peblis*, seems plainly to have been taken from the pebbles with which the soil abounds, particularly where the town was first built. Being the county town, and the seat of a presbytery, Peebles gives name to both. The town stands on the N. side of the river Tweed, where Peebles' Water falls into it; the old town on the W., and the new on the E. side of that water, joined by two bridges carried over it,

and communicating with the country on the S., by an ancient and well built bridge of 5 arches over the Tweed. The landward part of the parish is from E. to W. 5½ miles, and from N. to S. 10 miles, and contains 18,210 acres. The river Tweed, running through it from W. to E., divides it into nearly equal parts. Peebles, called also Eddlestone water, subdivides the N. part of it. The royal burgh of Peebles stands in the centre, and in a situation remarkably pleasant. It is built in a beautiful and healthy opening in a hilly country. It has the Castle of Horsburgh, situated on a gentle eminence on the E.; the Castle of Needpath, embosomed in an amphitheatre of wood, on the W.; the rich strath of Eddlestone water, adorned with gentlemen's seats, on the N.; and a variety of thriving plantations on the S. Like as in the Tempe of Thessaly, the river, in clear streams, and beautiful windings, flows through the middle of the vale, which, on both sides of the river, is adorned with rich meadows, and fields of corn. Verdant hills, covered with flocks and herds, rise gently all around; and higher mountains, emitting springs more salubrious than Offa or Olympus, rear their lofty summits behind, and terminate the prospect. The situation of Peebles is as healthy as it is pleasant. The soil is dry, and the air well ventilated and pure. The Tweed runs through a track of 80 miles, taking the straight, and 100 miles, following the serpentine line of its course, and falls 1500 feet: But though it has finished one-third only of its course, it has fallen two-thirds of its descent at Peebles, which is only 500 feet above the level of the sea. Situated in a centrical part of the country, Peebles has the rains from all quarters, in a very moderate degree: so that the average quantity yearly is only 25 inches. And guarded on the N. E. by the highest part of that long range of mountains which runs from Lammermuir to the head of Eddlestone water, Peebles commonly is not visited by the eastern fog one day in the year.

*Soil, Culture, and Rent of Lands.*—The soil on the level of the Tweed, and Eddlestone water, is clay mixed with sand, and fit for corn or grass. The lands rising a little higher are generally loam on a gravelly bottom, and produce excellent barley, oats, and all green crops. The soil on the skirts and sides of the hills, is an easy and rich earth, and these grounds, where not inclosed, are kept alternately in natural grass and in corn. Improvements in agriculture have of late years made a rapid progress in the parish of Peebles; 1500 acres are already enclosed. There are 700 acres more of infield ground, a great part of which will be enclosed in a short time. Of outfield ground, which is sometimes in tillage, but more commonly in natural grass, for pasturing cows and horses, there are 800 acres. The other lands, being hilly, afford excellent pasture for sheep, and are employed for this purpose. The lands nigh the town are let at from 40 s. to 50 s. the acre. Within these 20 years, the rental of the parish is become double; and in 110 years, septuple; for the valuation in 1681 was 5036l. Scots. The present rental is now above 3000l. Sterling, paid to 16 heritors, of which two only, and the burgesses, who are many of them proprietors of lands, reside in the parish. The Peebles grey pea has long been in high estimation all over the country for seed; as also are the oats, which, raised from a warm soil, make excellent seed for lands that are higher and colder. With regard to potatoes, first imported into Britain by Sir Walter Raleigh, and the most useful root that ever was imported into this, or any other country, they are nowhere cultivated with more care, and raised in greater excellence and increase than at Peebles. Ground is parcelled out for planting from 1 to 6 pecks, at 1s. 6d. the peck; 110 or 120 square yards are usually allowed to the peck. The proprietor or possessor of the ground ploughs it till it is clean, drives out the dung, and plants the

potatoes with the plough; and besides having his ground cleaned and manured, has a reasonable rent for his lands, and price for his labour. The little tenants furnish the dung and seed, assist in cleaning the ground, and planting the potatoes, hoe and dig them after their hours of working, which contributes to their health, and have their potatoes for half of the price at which they could otherwise purchase them, and which, to many families, furnish a third part of their subsistence at a very cheap rate.

*Animals.*—The Tweed abounds not only with trout, but salmon, which visit the higher parts of it for spawning, towards the end of the year. Accordingly the Peebles Arms are g salmon. In the parish there are 200 horses, and 500 cows, both much better than in former times. The number of sheep is about 8000. The ancient kind is still generally retained; but by their being kept fewer in number, and being better fed, they are much improved in quality. As the grounds in this part of the country are generally dry and healthy, the sheep are not so liable to disease as in many other places. Of these, what is called the *sickness*, is generally the most common and the most fatal. It is an inflammation in the bowels, brought on by the full habit of the animal, by sudden heats and colds, by eating wet and frosted grass, or by lying on wet grounds; and might, in most cases, be prevented by bleeding, by gentle treatment, and by change of pasture. It is a pity that the most harmless, and the most useful of all animals should, in this respect, have so long been the most neglected. By a better knowledge of the diseases of the sheep, their natural causes, and the means of preventing or curing them, many thousands of them might be annually saved to their proprietor, and to the country.

## Of Prebates.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then was 1896. The inhabitants in this parish, of all denominations, in 1791, are 1920, distinguished as follows:

In the Old Town,	-	-	-	-	350
In the New Town,	-	-	-	-	1130
In the landward part of the parish,	-	-	-	-	<u>440</u>
Under 5 years of age,	263	From 50 to 60			158
From 5 to 10	284	— 60 to 70	-	-	164
— 10 to 20	365	— 70 to 80	-	-	50
— 20 to 30	258	— 80 to 90	-	-	8
— 30 to 40	192	— 90 to 100	-	-	2
— 40 to 50	176				 <u>1920</u>

<b>Seceders and Cameronians, 61</b>	<b>Average of marriages yearly for the last 12 years,</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Minister of the established church,</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Minister of the secession,</b>	<b>1</b>	
	<b>Births for ditto,</b>	<b>56</b>
	<b>* Burials,</b>	<b>52</b>

Inoculation has been practised for many years in this county by able surgeons, with great success, and becomes more and more general. Above a thousand have been inoculated, without one dying. Nay, some parents have even inoculated their children themselves, and have perfectly succeeded. The inhabitants of the parish, in town and country, are generally healthy, and live many of them to very advanced ages.

\* From the number of communicants in each parish, entered last century on the records of the presbytery, as the rule by which the money then given to their bursar was levied from the several parishes, it is evident that the population of this parish, and of this county in general, has, since that time, decreased more than one-fourth part. This is owing to the annexation of farms, and throwing down of cottages, by which the great tenants are enriched, but the small ones, and the cottagers, are almost wholly extinguished; and manufactures not having been established in towns and villages, the people must go elsewhere, as necessity impels, or inclination leads them.

ted age. Lately there were 6 men living at the same time, within fifty yards of one another, in the old town of Peebles, whose ages together amounted to 518 years, and who, several of them, died near 100 years old. The people are regular in their attendance on the institutions of religion, sober, peaceable, and virtuous ; so that, in the memory of the oldest person living, no native of Peebles has either been banished, or suffered capital punishment. In the way in which holidays of human institution are now observed in Europe, it is of advantage to industry, to virtue, and to religion itself, that we have so few of them in Scotland. In every age and country, the Sabbath has been, and ever must be, the great support of religion and of virtue among mankind. Nothing has so much hurt the devout sanctification of that holy day in other countries, as men's being accustomed to employ one part of a holiday in devotion, and the other in diversion : And nothing has tended more to preserve a due observance of the Sabbath, a reverence of God, and veneration for religion and its ordinances in Scotland, than this, that our holidays are mostly observed with the same religious sanctity as the Sabbath.

*Stipend, Poor, Schools, &c.—*The church, which is elegant and substantial, ornamental to the town, and commodious for the parish, was finished in 1783. And the manse was built in 1770. The stipend is 1200 l. Scots, and 50 l. Scots for communion elements. The glebe contains .6 acres. The Duke of Queensberry, as Earl of March, is patron. The poor have no regular support but from the interest of between 400 l. and 500 l. Sterling in the management of the kirk session, the collections at the church doors on Sabbath, and the small sums arising from the use of the pall and hearse, amounting to about 60 l. Sterling yearly : Besides what the magistrates give to indigent persons from the revenues of the town,

and

and which they justly vary as the exigencies of the times require. As the burgh is the greatest part of the parish, the magistrates and council have always appointed schoolmasters for the use of the whole parish ; one for teaching the Grammar, another the English school, and have provided them with proper houses and salaries. Private schools also have always existed, and of late have become rivals for fame of education with the public ones. All the masters are able, and all of them are emulous, which to make the best scholars. At these schools no fewer than 250 children are at present educated, many of them from different parts of the kingdom, and who, for boarding and clothing, bring into the town annually above 1000 l. Sterling. Poor children are educated by the kirk-session from the poor's funds, and no part of them is more properly applied. The institution of parochial schools is to the honour, as well as the utility of Scotland. It shows the wisdom and patriotism of our ancestors in a high degree. At these necessary and useful little seminaries of literary and religious knowledge, established by law in every parish, many have received the first principles of literature, who have become ornaments to their country, and blessings to mankind. What a pity is it, that in a country of increased, and of yearly increasing opulence and expense, the salaries of so useful a class of men are not increased in proportion !

*Modern Improvements in Trade and Manufacture, &c.—*  
Formerly Peebles was supported chiefly by the houses and burgh acres belonging to the burgesses, by their merchandise and their trade, and by the many valuable commonties granted by the kings of Scotland to the burgh for its loyalty and good services. Now, improvements begin to be carried on upon a larger scale. Of late years, about fifty houses have been built or thoroughly repaired. Woollen, linen, and

cotton weavers are making greater exertions, and larger houses are built for them. The magistrates have long provided the community with excellent flour, barley, corn, and fulling mills. Dr. James Hay of Haystoun, besides improving his valuable estate, and setting an example of general improvement, has built a lint-mill for the accommodation of the country. Mr. William Ker of Kerfield, has erected one of the completest breweries and distilleries, and made a new and useful improvement in the art of brewing: Perceiving a part of the fine effluvia of the hop to fly off during the boiling of the worts, he contrived a most ingenious and effectual method of preserving it. He covers his copper with a close, but moveable top of the same metal, having a pipe descending from it, and carried through cold water, like the worm of a still, by which means the steam is condensed and conducted into a common receiver, where the oil of the hop floating on the surface of the watery part, is skimmed off, and returned into the worts when the boiling is finished. By this means a third of the hop is saved, and the most aromatic part of it is preserved, so as to give the beer a finer flavour, and keeps it from souring till it is brought to a greater age and excellence. He has formed a design of erecting a woollen manufacture according to the most approved plan, which will also be of general utility.—By the great increase of trade and opulence, the price of labour of all kinds has increased one third part within these twenty years. Men servants have 6*l.* or 7*l.*, and maid servants 3*l.* Sterling of yearly wages, besides their victuals. Common labourers have 1*s.* a-day, without victuals, and masons and carpenters 1*s.* 6*d.* All classes are better educated, better lodged, better clothed and fed than in former times. It is also happy for those in the lower classes, that though Peebles is the thoroughfare for oatmeal, carried from the richer corn country on the east, to the mining and manufacturing

facturing country on the west, yet the average price of this meal for twenty years past, has not exceeded 9 d., or at most 10 d. the peck; and it is a received maxim, that while a labourer can earn a peck of oatmeal in a day, he will, in common cases, be able to support his family.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—The Celtæ, a numerous and powerful people, who spread over a great part of the north and west of Europe, and who, as Julius Cæsar informs us, were, in the neighbouring country, called also Galli, were the first inhabitants of Britain, and the Celtic or Gaelic was its first and universal language. About the beginning of the Christian æra, the Romans subdued and provinciated what of the island lies south of the Forth and the Clyde, and introduced in many places the Latin. The Saxons in the 5th, and the Danes in the 9th and 10th centuries, made invasions and settlements in Britain, and introduced their language. By these means, and by the great numbers of the English, who, upon the Norman conquest, came into the south of Scotland, and had lands given them, the Celtic language gradually gave way in this part of the country, to the Roman and the Saxon, of which our present English language is composed. Of these things vestiges still remain in this parish and in the neighbourhood. At Lyne, four miles west from Peebles, is a distinct Roman Castra Stativa, 500 feet square, with two ditches and three ramparts, containing between six and seven acres. Three miles south from this camp, and on the other side of the Tweed, is a hill called Cademuir, anciently Cadhmore, signifying in Gaelic, “the great fight;” on the top of which are four British camps, one of them much stronger than the rest, surrounded with stone walls, without cement, in some places double, and where single, no less than five yards in thickness; without which, and out of the ruins of which, have been

erected near 200 monumental stones, many of them still standing, and others fallen down,—indications that in very early times, when the Gaelic was the common language of the country, and when the Romans had as yet been the only invaders of it, a great battle had been fought on that hill, and that at the strong camp on the top of it, numbers had been killed, and were buried. On the extremity of the parish toward the N. W., is a high hill called Melden, properly Meltein, “the Hill of Fire,” from the fires kindled on the top of it, anciently in worship of the Sun, or afterward to give signal to the surrounding country, when enemies appeared in the Frith of Forth; and round the top of it a large inclosure or camp is visible. Toward the east part of the parish is a hill called Frineti, or properly Daneti or Danes’-brae, with two circular camps, of which the highest has been surrounded with a ditch above ten feet in depth. Many other camps are to be seen on eminences and on the tops of hills, all over the country, vestiges of ancient invasion and danger. In later ages, when the ancient smaller kingdoms in the island were formed, into the two larger ones of Scotland and England, as the Cheviot hills were a natural barrier between them in the middle of the country, invasion and war were made by the mouth of the Tweed on the E. and of the Solway on the W.; yet small parties of the army often penetrated for plunder into the interior parts. The predatory disposition, but too much exemplified by the nations, was practised all over the country, and particularly toward the borders, where troops of freebooters made incursions into this part of the country every summer, for carrying off, under night, horses, black cattle, and sheep. In defence against these various depredations, strong castles were built, by the kings of Scotland, on the lower parts of the Tweed, and were continued by the land-holders along the higher parts of it, and on the waters which

on

on each side fall into it. They were built of stone and lime prepared in the best manner, and where larger, or situated nigh the castra of former times, they were called castles, or when smaller, were called towers. They consisted commonly of three stories, the lower one on the ground floor vaulted, into which the horses and cows were brought in times of danger; the great hall, in which the family lived; and the highest, in which were the bed chambers, designed for public as well as for private safety. They were, by general consent, built alternately on both sides the river, and in a continued view one of another. A fire kindled on the top of these towers was the known sign of an incursion of the enemy. The smoke gave the signal by day, and the flame in the night; and over a tract of country of 70 miles long, from Berwick to the Bield, and 50 miles broad, intelligence was, in this manner, conveyed in a very few hours. As these buildings are not only antiquities, but evidences of the ancient situation of the country, and are now most of them in ruins, it will not be improper to mention those along the Tweed for ten miles below Peebles, and as many above it. Thus, Elibank tower looks to one at Hollowlee, this to one at Scrogbank, this to one at Caberton, this to one at Bold, this to one at Purvis hill, this to these at Innerleithan, Traquair, and Griestone, this last to one at Ormiston, this to one at Cardrona, this to one at Nether Horsburgh, this to Horsburgh castle, this to these at Haystone, Castlehill of Peebles and Needpath, this last to one at Caverhill, this to one at Barns, and to another at Lyne, this to these at Easter Happrew, Easter Dawic, Hillhouse and Wester Dawic, now New Posso, this last to one at Dreva, and this to one at Tannis, or Thanes castle near Drummelzier. Of these the castle of Needpath, not far from the old town of Peebles; and in the line of its principal street, is the strongest one in the best preservation. Its walls are 11 feet in thickness,

thickness, and cemented with lime almost as hard as the strong whin stone of which they are built. It was anciently the property and chief residence of the powerful family of the Frasers, first proprietors of Oliver castle, and afterward of a great part of the lands from that to Peebles, and sheriffs of the county; and from whom spring the families of Lovat and Saltoun, in the N. The last of that family, in the male line, in Tweeddale, was the brave Sir Simon Fraser, who in 1303, along with Sir John Cummin, with only 10,000 men, repulsed and defeated 30,000 English in three battles fought on one day on Rossin moor. He left two daughters co-heiresses to his great estate; one of whom was married to the ancestor of the Marquis of Tweeddale, and the other to the ancestor of the Earl of Wigton, which families, therefore, quartered the arms of the Frasers with their own. And the castle and large barony of Needpath continuing the property of the Tweeddale family, and the town of Peebles much under its patronage, the Frasers arms are to be seen on the cross to this day. There is good evidence, that Peebles and the neighbouring country, have been considerably populous for above a thousand years, and that they have been enlightened with the gospel from a still more ancient period; and that in after ages they received from the kings of Scotland, many expressions of royal regard and munificence. The first teachers of Christianity in Britain, were called, in the original Gaelic language, Kule Dia or Culdees, that is, servants of God, in distinction to the former teachers of heathenism, the Druids, and taught the religion of the true God and our Saviour in much purity and simplicity for some centuries. When the ambitious bishops of Rome, in succession to the emperors, formed their design of universal empire, various religious orders were instituted, and various religious houses were built and endowed, in this, as in the other nations in Europe, to increase the votaries,

riches,

riches, and power of the Romish hierarchy. The high church of Peebles, dedicated to St. Mary, which, from the remains of it in the church yard, was large enough to accommodate the parish at this time, is reckoned to have been built, or rather rebuilt, in the 11th century, when the churches were generally rebuilt in a better manner, as from some very old free-stone rebuilt in its walls, it is evident that it only succeeded to one that was greatly more ancient. To the chaplains of St. Mary in Peebles, K. David granted the corn and waulkmills of Innerleithan, with the adjacent lands and very extensive muntures.

On the discovery of the remains of a human body that had been cut in pieces, and buried in a firme of stone, and of a cross deposited near it, bearing the name of St. Nicolaus, it was believed, that St. Nicolaus of the order of the Culdees, and who was reckoned to have suffered martyrdom about the end of the 3d century, when the persecution of the Christians under Dioclesian and Maximian raged in Britain, had been buried in that place. About the year 1260, Alexander III. at the request of William then bishop of Glasgow, to which diocese Peebles belonged, erected on that spot a large conventional church, dedicated to God and the holy cross, and called the *Cross Kirk of Peebles*, as an account of its erection obtained in 1627, from records in St. John's college, Cambridge, and in possession of the magistrates of Peebles, more fully bears. It was built in the form of a square; with a court in the middle, 124 feet by 110 over all. The church formed the south side of the square, and was 104 by 26 feet within walls. The front wall was built with a small arch over the spot where the cross and the remains of the Saint were deposited; so that the religious, whether within or without the church, might perform their devotions at the sacred shrine. The side walls were 22 feet in height, and the front adorned

adorned with 5 large Gothic windows. The other three sides of the square formed the convent, of which the side walls were 14 feet high, and 16 feet distant from each other, and the ground floor vaulted. It was of the order of churches called Ministries, and contained 70 red or Trinity friars, an order instituted in honour of the Holy Trinity, and for the redemption of Christians who were made slaves by the Turks, to which a third part of their yearly income was to be applied. Besides other endowments, its royal founder gave to the Cross Kirk, about 50 acres of excellent land lying all around it. Friar Thomas its minister, was chaplain to K. Robert IV. who gave to it the lands called the *King's Meadow, juxta Villam de Peebles*, which description makes it probable that Peebles was not as yet erected into a burgh royal, though the charters granted to it afterward, show that it received this honour soon after, either from that prince, or from James I.

A mile and an half below Peebles stood the hospital of St. Leonards, called afterward by corruption, Chappel yards, founded for infirm and indigent persons. In 1427, James I. gave this hospital to his confessor David Rat, of the order of the preachers; a probable evidence that James lived frequently at Peebles, and wrote there his poem, entitled, *Peebles to the Play*, in which he represents a great annual festival of music, diversions, and feasting, that had long been in use to be held at Peebles, attended by multitudes from the Forth and the Forest, in their best apparel. The time of this festival was at Beltein, which, in the Gaelic language, signifies the fire of Bell or Baal, because on the first day of May, our heathen ancestors, by kindling fires and offering sacrifices on eminences or tops of mountains, held their great anniversary festival in honour of the sun, whose benign influences on all nature begun to be strongly felt at this time, and men wished

more

more and more to feel as the summer advanced. The name Beltein-day, continued and gave designation to the Beltein fair of Peebles, long after the religion of the country, and the festivals of the season, were changed. Peebles is only 20 miles south from Edinburgh, situated itself in a fine sporting country, and on the straight road to the King's Forest of Etterick. The kings of Scotland made Peebles their usual summer retreat, for rural diversion or the administration of justice. Many of the nobility accompanied them, whose houses in Peebles still bear their names. Extensive lands all around, afterward granted by royal charter in property or commonalty to the burgh. Cadmuir, Hornidoun, Venlaw, and Glentorie, were the king's property and hunting grounds. The bridge over the Tweed seems to have been built at different times, and the whole structure to carry evidences of similar antiquity, as the Cross Kirk, and most probably was erected by king and subjects, as being most necessary and convenient for both. On the S. E. of Peebles, and other side of the river, is the gallows hill, where criminals were hanged. On the King's moor, between that and Peebles, were the ancient tournaments exhibited. There the county militia, amounting commonly to 300 horsemen, muster every year at their weapon-shawing in June and October. Their horse races continued to be held at Beltein, till the middle of the present century ; and last year, when a part of that moor was converted from its original to a more improved state, in a cairn of stones, was found a Roman urn inverted, containing the blade of his dagger, and the ashes of some ancient hero who had been buried there. The town of Peebles originally extended from Eddlestone water westward to *the meadow well strand*, the cross standing opposite to the Ludgate. It was several times plundered and burnt by the English ; so that nothing was left undestroyed but the churches, the manse, and the cross, which being

being held sacred, were commonly spared. This induced the principal inhabitants to build a new town on the E. side of that water, as being a situation more easily fortified, and to surround it with strong walls and gates, which continued till the two kingdoms were united. In consideration of these great losses, and that the town of Peebles had always been distinguished for loyalty, fidelity, and good services, not only the usual privileges of royal burghs, but the extensive lands already mentioned, and a toll on the bridge of Tweed, were, by royal charters, granted to it at the reformation of religion in Scotland in the 1560, when the needless multiplicity of churches was abolished, and convents were dissolved. The high church in the old town was demolished, and the cross church, as being nearer to the new town, was converted into the parochial one, and employed in the offices of reformed religion till January 1784, when the new church having been built within the town, was opened for religious worship by the present incumbent. The cloister was converted into houses for the schoolmasters, and public schools, and was used for these purposes to the beginning of this century, when it became ruinous. In the year 1621, James VI. renewed and confirmed all the rights, privileges, and lands granted to the burgh by his royal predecessors: and whereas a number of churches, chapels, and altars had, in times of Popery, been erected and endowed by pious persons, in honour of angels and saints, for the purpose of saying mass for the souls of their own friends deceased, all these, with their revenues, his Majesty granted, in all time thereafter, to the magistrates, council and community of Peebles, on condition of a small annuity to be paid into the Exchequer, and their offering their daily convent prayers to Almighty God for his Majesty and his successors. In times of Episcopacy, the minister of Peebles was Archdean of Glasgow, parson of Peebles and Mannor, and had the parsonage-tithes

tithes of both parishes, then worth 6000 merks yearly. The vicar in Peebles had the glebe of 80 acres, still called the Kirk-lands, though at the Reformation very little of these lands were left to the church, together with the vicarage-tithes, part of which is given by the patron of the parish to the master of the grammar-school. At the Reformation, and afterward, when the lands and revenues of the church were disposed of to other purposes, it would have been wiser to have reserved a proper portion of these lands for the constant support of the parochial clergy, a smaller part of it to be occupied by themselves, and the rest to be let by them for their use. This would have been a better provision for the established clergy, than either the *ipsa corpora* tithes, which are often a check to agricultural improvements, and a bone of contention between the pastor and people, or stipends modified out of these tithes, which decrease in value as the expense of living increases. The small legal glebe of 4 acres of arable land, when ploughed by the parishioners, as was formerly the case, might be some advantage to the minister. Now, when he must keep two horses and a servant to cultivate it, it is a loss, in place of a gain. Whereas, if every minister in the Church of Scotland, having a country parish, had been provided in a glebe of 20 or 30 acres, he would, without either loss to himself, or avocation from the sacred duties of his office, have directed the proper culture of it, and generally would have set an example of improvement in every parish, which would have been followed, and proved of great and general advantage to the country.

## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF DALKEITH.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

*By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM SCOTT.*

*Name, Extent, &c.*

THE name of this parish is said to be derived from the Gaelic language, and signifies "a plain situated between two rivers." If this be so, it is perfectly descriptive of the situation of the village, which stands on a narrow strip of land between two rivers, both known by the name of Esk, the banks of which are beautifully wooded, and embellished with the seats of several families of the first distinction. The extent of the parish is very moderate, as it nowhere exceeds 2 miles, either in breadth or length. The soil is various, but, in general, the lower grounds are light, and inclining to sand, and the higher, of a pretty deep clay. The whole of the parish is arable, except a little on the banks of the rivers, which, for the most part, are steep, and beautifully fringed.

ged with wood. The soil produces every kind of grain, and is well adapted for raising every species of forest trees, which arrive here at great perfection. There are no mountains nor hills in the parish: indeed almost the whole of it might be considered as a plain, did not the steep banks of the rivers give it, in some places, an uneven and broken appearance.

*Farms, and Rent of Land.*—The farms are few in number, and neither large nor extensive. This is owing to a multiplicity of portioners, who either farm their own land, or let it out to gardeners, who pay a high rent for it. Agriculture is well understood, not only in the parish, but in the whole country around, and has attained a high degree of perfection. Materials for the improving of land are at no great distance, as lime may be procured in abundance in the neighbourhood, and the village affords a considerable quantity of excellent manure. The rent of land here is, in general, high. Meadow, or pasture ground, when inclosed, lets at from 3 l. to 5 l. the Scotch acre, according to its quality or vicinity to the village. Those farms which lie in the remotest parts of the parish, are let, some of them at 1 l., some at 1 l. 15 s., and others at 2 l. the acre, in proportion to the quality of the soil. Land that has been under the plough, is, at present, picked up with avidity by gardeners, and brings from 3 l. 3 s. to 5 l. 10 s. yearly, according as the lease granted happens to be of a longer or shorter duration. When there is any land in the market here, it sells at from 50 l. to 100 l. the acre, in proportion to its quality or local situation with respect to the village. The parish contains a considerable quantity of coal, but as it lies so deep in the earth, that it cannot, in general, be come at with advantage to the proprietors, without the help of fire engines, there is little of it wrought at present. The inhabitants, however, suffer no inconvenience from this circumstance,

circumstance, as they are plentifully supplied from a variety of coal-pits, with which the parish is surrounded. The ordinary price of this necessary article, is from 2*½*d. to 3*½*d. the cwt. according to its quality; but during the course of last winter, it was much higher, on account of an universal scarcity, and an additional rise of price at the pits.

*Markets.*—With respect to markets, the parish is very conveniently situated. One of the most considerable, perhaps the greatest market for grain of any in Scotland, is held in Dalkeith every Thursday, to which is brought, a very great quantity of oats (in particular) from all the neighbourhood, and especially from the south country. It is remarkable, that all the grain sold here brings ready money; a circumstance of much importance to the farmers, who generally purchase here, such articles as they find necessary for themselves and their families, before they leave the town. A great proportion of the grain and meal sold at Dalkeith, goes to the supply of the west country, about Carron, Glasgow, and Paisley. From Martinmas till about Whitsunday, there is likewise a market for meal, every Monday, and one for cattle, every Tuesday. We have also an annual fair held on the third Tuesday of October for horses and black cattle, &c. This fair, it is said, was formerly of much more consequence, and better attended than it is at present \*.

#### *Population.*

\* *Prices and Wages.*—The village is abundantly supplied with excellent butcher meat, which may be had in great perfection on the Thursdays, and Saturdays. The butchers here contribute considerably to the supply of the Edinburgh market, and some of them sell there the whole of what they kill. During the season of winter and spring, the price of beef is 4d. the lb. avoirdupois, veal 5d., mutton 5d., and pork 4d. From the month of September till about the middle of January, the price of beef and mutton, is 3d. or 3*½*d. the pound, but during the rest of the year, it is not lower than what has been mentioned above. In the summer

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls at that time was 3110. The parish contains 1095 families, of which about 50 reside in the country, and all the rest in the villages of Dalkeith, Lugton, and Bridgend. Of these, there are at present, including journeymen and apprentices,

Weavers,	-	56	Hammermen (including
Shoemakers,	-	62	masons, wrights, &c.), 77
Tailors,	-	44	Clergymen, - 5
Dyers,	-	12	Students at the University, 3
Gardeners,	-	53	Carters, - 60 or 70
Butchers,	-	30	Farmers, - 11
Candlemakers (besides apprentices)	-	3	Bakers, - - 36
Practitioners in physic,		6	Brewers (besides journeymen and apprentices), 4
Weavers (not incorporated),	-		Hairdressers, - 5
	-	21	Watchmakers, - 2

The number of souls amounts to 4366. The annual average of marriages, births, and burials, is as follows:—Marriages 32, births 134, burials 124. This statement of births, however, is by no means complete, as many of the dissenters neglect to register the baptisms of their children. There is good reason for supposing that there may be 30 or 40 children born here annually, whose births are not registered.

#### *Manufactures.*

Summer season chickens sell at about 8d. the pair, and hens from 16d. to 18d. In summer the price of butter is 10d. the lb. Butter is sold here by iron weight 2½oz. to the lb., and in winter, it rises sometimes to 1s. or 1s. 1d. The wages of labourers in husbandry, during the summer season, are from 1s. to 1s. 3d. the q.y. Mowers receive from 1s. 8d. to 2s. Gardeners from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. In winter, common labourers receive from 8d. to 10d., and gardeners 1s. The wages of domestic female servants, a-year, are from 2l. 10s. to 4l.

*Manufactures.*—Though the situation of this parish appears to be peculiarly favourable for manufactures, yet there is little done in that way. The only articles worth mentioning, are, a tannery, a soap-work, and the making of candles, which have justly acquired a high character. Mr. Russin, too, erected a tambour manufacture here in February 1790. He indentured 110 girls as apprentices, from 9 to 12 years of age, besides 4 boys. He also erected, at the same time, a manufacture of the same kind at Musselburgh, and had 22 apprentices bound on the same day. These apprentices are bound for 4 years, and are paid as follows:—For the first year, they have 2 s. a-week paid them every Saturday; for the second, 2 s. 6d. a-week; and for the last 2 years, they have 3 s. weekly. Mr. Russin was the first who introduced this branch of manufacture into Scotland, in the year 1782, under the patronage of the Honourable Board of Trustees in Edinburgh, from whom he received three different premiums, one of 40 l., one of 30 l., and one of 20 l., besides his house rent paid him for three years. This branch of business is now so much increased, that it employs not fewer than 30,000 young girls in Scotland.

*Heritors, Church, Manse, Stipend, Poor, Schools.*—The number of heritors is 24. The whole of the parish holds of the Duke of Buccleugh, who is proprietor of about two-thirds of it. His Grace is also patron and titular of the teinds. The church, though old, is in good repair, and in winter is rendered comfortable, by being warmed with stoves. The manse, which appears from an inscription over the door, to have been built in the year 1681, is a large, lodgeable house, but badly situated, and so gloomy as to resemble a prison, being hemmed in with buildings on three sides, and deprived of the benefit of sun-shine for nearly the whole winter half year.

It is believed that the various reparations which it has undergone, have cost as much as would have been sufficient to build an excellent new house on a more desirable situation. The stipend is 95l. ; but there is a prospect of its being soon augmented, as the patron, with his usual public spirit, has generously proposed it, though the whole burden of the augmentation falls on himself. The glebe is about 6 acres, all arable, and from its vicinity to the village, is, on that account, the more valuable.—As the parish is populous, so the poor are proportionably numerous. A good many of them receive a weekly allowance from the kirk-funds, of which the kirk-session has the management. Those who receive supply in this manner, may, at an average, be about 16 or 18 in the summer season ; but in winter, their number is commonly greater, as at that time of the year, such of them as have health and ability to labour a little in the fields, find no employment. Besides the money arising from the weekly collections at the church doors, which, at an average, is about 15s. or 16s. a-week, the kirk-session has the management of the rents of a few acres of land, and some small feu-duties belonging to the poor, the amount of which is about 30l. Sterling a-year. To this may be added, the money arising from the loan of mortcloths, which is, *communibus annis*, about 24l. There is likewise a charity workhouse belonging to the parish, in which a considerable number of poor are lodged, fed, and clothed. There are at present in the house, about 23 or 24, but sometimes there are 40 and upwards. To support these poor, the kirk-session pays annually, the sum of 40l. Sterling, the heritors 50l., and a contribution by the inhabitants produces about 45l. yearly. There is a housekeeper to superintend the poor in the house; and the accounts are carefully kept by a treasurer appointed for the purpose, and regularly examined, every month, by a committee

mittee of managers, who are annually chosen from the kirk-session, trades, merchants, and heritors. In the years 1752 and 1783, the poor of this place were in great distress ; but the liberal donations of her Grace the Duchess of Buccleugh, and Robert Craig, Esq. greatly contributed to enable the kirk-session to relieve the poor, both of their own, and other congregations. In justice to both these distinguished characters, it ought to be observed, that their attention, humanity, and liberality to the poor of this place, have, at no time, been wanting. The charity of the family of Buccleugh, in particular, is worthy of the highest rank and most opulent fortune.—The grammar school here has long been in high repute, and at one period was considered as the first in the kingdom. It has produced some of the greatest geniuses, and brightest ornaments of the age ; some of the most distinguished characters in the literary and political world, having here received the rudiments of their education. A considerable time ago, it seemed to be on the decline, owing to a variety of causes, which it is unnecessary to enumerate ; but the merit and abilities of the late and present rectors, have done much to restore it to its former reputation. The teaching room is large, pleasant, well aired, and inferior to none on this side of the Tweed, in point of convenience and accommodation. A considerable number of young gentlemen are boarded with the rector, who pays unwearyed attention to their health, morals, and education. They amount, at present, to 20 or upwards ; and when the master's house shall be enlarged, of which there is no very distant prospect, there is no doubt that there will be many more. The salary is about £31. Sterling ; besides which, there is a very good dwelling-house, and a large garden. There are likewise 4 English schools here, all of which are well attended. The principal English master, who teaches geometry, navigation, and drawing,

ing, has had, at an average, for 10 years past, not fewer than 80 or 100 scholars almost constantly under his care.

*Sectaries.*—In this parish there is a great number of dissenters of various denominations. Those of the Burgher, Antiburgher, Relief, and Methodistical persuasions, have all of them their respective places of worship in Dalkeith; to which, as to a common centre, they assemble from all the country round. Those of the Relief congregation are by far the most numerous. Next to them rank the Burghers, then the Antiburghers; and the Methodists are inferior to them all in point of numbers. There is likewise one family of Cameronians, and another of Anabaptists. Notwithstanding this great diversity of opinions, which prevails among the inhabitants in matters of religion, they live together, at least as far as is known to the writer of this account, in the practice of that charity, meekness, and moderation, which the Christian religion requires of all its professors. There may, no doubt, be some here, as elsewhere, addicted to censure, calumny, and detraction; but the number of such, it is hoped, is very inconsiderable.

*Dalkeith Castle, House, &c.*—The only thing under the article of antiquities, worthy of being mentioned, is the Castle of Dalkeith, which formerly occupied the same spot where now stands Dalkeith House, the principal seat of his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh\*. About the beginning of the pre-

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\* In ancient times, it appears to have been a place of considerable strength, and to have stood some sieges. It was situated on a perpendicular rock of great height, and inaccessible on all sides, except on the east, where it was defended by a fossé, through which the river is said to have formerly run. It was, for some centuries, the principal residence of the noble family of Morton; and history records, that James IX. and last Earl of Douglas, exasperated against John Douglas,

sent century, a very magnificent house was built on the site of the old castle, by Ann Duchess of Buccleugh and Monmouth. The fossé already mentioned, which guarded the castle on the east, was filled up, and a large mound of forced earth raised around the rock. It is now a pleasant bank, and adorned with a variety of delightful shrubs. The beauty of the situation, which is deservedly admired, is greatly heightened by the windings of the rivers, and the abundance of thriving wood with which it is surrounded. The Duke has lately built an elegant bridge of beautiful white stone over the North Esk, which is a great addition to the surrounding scenery, and forms a fine object, when seen, as it is in great perfection, from the windows of the house. It consists of one large arch, 70 feet wide, and 45 in height. By means of this bridge, a new approach will be opened to the house, and one of the most delightful that can be imagined. The park in which Dalkeith House is situated, is of great extent, containing about 800 Scotch acres. It is completely surrounded by a wall built with stone and lime, and about 8 or 9 feet high. There is a  
great

Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith, for espousing the cause of King James II., who had basely murdered William VIII., Earl of the illustrious House of Douglas at Stirling, laid siege to the castle of Dalkeith, binding himself by a solemn oath, not to desist till he had made himself master of it. It was, however, so gallantly defended by Patrick Cockburn and Clerkington, that the Earl of Douglas, and his followers, after undergoing much toil, and receiving many wounds, found themselves unable to reduce it, and were obliged to raise the siege. On the defeat of the Scotch army at Pinkie, Anno Dom. 1547, many fled to the castle of Dalkeith for refuge, among whom was James Earl of Morton, afterward regent of Scotland, and Sir David Hume of Wedderburn. It was besieged by the English, and defended for some time; but as it contained not a sufficient store of provisions for such a number of men as had fled to it, and as the besieged had no hopes of succour against the victorious army, it was obliged to surrender; in consequence of which, the Earl and Sir David were made prisoners.

In the year 1642, the estate of Dalkeith came into the possession of the family of Buccleugh by purchase from the Earl of Morton.

great variety of excellent wood in it, particularly a number of fine venerable oaks of great antiquity ; but several of them begin to experience the effects of time, and are seeming to decay. The North and South Esk run through the park, and unite their winding streams about half a mile below Dalkeith House. Both these rivers produce fine trout, eels, and sometimes salmon. The banks are cut into walks of great extent, with much taste, and are the delight of every visitant. There is in the park a confiderable number of deer and sheep. The situation of the village of Dalkeith is allowed to be uncommonly beautiful. It stands in the heart of a rich country ; the two rivers which run so near it on the N. and S. with the fine woods on their banks, render it a pleasant abode. This account ought not to close without mentioning a little spot of peculiar beauty, about a quarter of a mile from the village, where an elegant house has been lately built, which does much honour to the taste of the proprietor. A situation more truly delightful can scarcely be imagined. It commands a view of the pleasure grounds of four of the finest country seats in the country, of the Frith of Forth, the Fife coast, the Pentland and Moorfit hills ; while, immediately under the windows, the windings of the North Esk are seen in full perfection.

## NUMBER III.

## PARISH OF PETTINAIN.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES FERGUSON.*

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*Situation, Extent, Surface, Climate, &c.*

THIS is one of the smallest parishes in this part of Scotland, and affords but little scope for statistical observation. The parish of Libberton bounds it on the E., those of Carnwath and Cartairs on the N., and that of Lanark on the N. W. These parishes are situated on the opposite side of the river Clyde, excepting a small part of the haugh ground belonging to Libberton. Upwards of sixty acres belonging to Pettinain are likewise, at different places, thrown on the other side of the river. The frequent changes of its course has, most probably, been the cause of this inconvenient situation. Its figure is irregular, but may be considered as a rectangle, nearly 3 miles long, and 2 broad. About 1700 acres are, in their course,

course, employed in tillage: the remaining part, which may be nearly of the same extent, is either coarse pasture-ground and moss, or is covered with plantations of trees. The church and village are situated towards the N. E. extremity of the parish, about half a mile from the nearest part of the river;  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the eastward of Lanark, and 7 miles to the north-westward of Biggar. There is only one hill in the parish that divides itself into two summits, which are sometimes distinguished by the names of Pettinain and Westraw hills. The last, and most westerly of these is the highest, and rises about 500 feet above the level of Clyde, and about 1000 feet above that of the sea. The other part of the hill extends itself, in a long bending ridge, towards the S., and runs into the neighbouring parish of Covington. These high grounds are mostly covered with short heath, intermixed, in several places, with bent, and other coarse grass. This gives them a bleak appearance, and renders them, comparatively, of small value. A large tract of moorish and mostly ground lies immediately behind the hill, on the S.; and in such a high situation, that it would not be advisable to attempt to cultivate any part of it. The rest of the lands in the parish, which lie lower, are generally of much better quality, and more agreeable appearance. The haughs, or holms, belonging to this and the neighbouring parishes on the opposite side of the river, are very extensive; and are clad in beautiful verdure during the summer months. The Clyde, which has formed these haughs, by depositing its mud, and which, by its frequent inundations, annually enriches them, adds greatly to their beauty, by its various windings. The grounds, interposed between these haughs and the hill, are finely diversified by beautiful swells. The extensive plantations of Westraw, and the hedges, which separate or subdivide the farms, give a pleasing look of cultivation to this part of the parish. The west and

and south parts are likewise much beautified by small plantations at Westtown and Clowburn, and by the hedges and other fences, which enclose a great proportion of the low grounds. Part of the enclosures belonging to Carmichael, one of the seats of the Earl of Hyndford, falls within the boundary of this parish on the S. W. and greatly improves its appearance in that quarter. From the height of the ground, the air must be cold and penetrating. The river, where it runs slowly, is frequently frozen over for several weeks together, in a severe winter. The frost is, probably, rendered more intense by the moorish and wet lands, which lie around the skirts of the hill, as well as by the river itself. In the year 1782 and 1784, the crop was greatly damaged by it.

*River, Fife, &c.*—The Clyde, which rises about 25 miles to the southward, is here swelled into a large river. Along the upper part of the haugh-grounds, it runs with a pretty rapid current; but, about 2 miles below, its motion becomes much slower, and its depth increases. For several miles downwards, except in a few places, it continues very deep, and makes many beautiful windings through the haughs. About half a mile before it leaves the parish, it rushes with an impetuous torrent over the rocks which lie in its bed. In the upper part of this course, there are several good fords; but they are often rendered impassable, especially in winter, by the heavy rains, or melting of snow. In such cases, the communication to the eastward is by the bridge at Thankerton, in the parish of Covington, which is at the distance of 2½ miles from the village of Pettinain. This very useful bridge was built about 14 years ago, by voluntary subscription, and cost upwards of 700 l. The country, on this account, is much indebted to the public-spirited exertions of the clergyman who was then minister of that parish, and of some of

the

neighbouring farmers. Hyndford bridge, which is placed about the same distance westward, opens a ready passage to Lanark, and other places in that quarter. The inundations of Clyde, though, in general, they undoubtedly fertilize the adjoining haughs, are hurtful at particular seasons. In the spring, the ploughed ground is, sometimes, so much washed and smoothed, that the seed cannot be sufficiently covered; in some places, where the current is strong, the soil is swept away; the seed is frequently displaced, and laid in the furrows. The summer floods, by covering the pasture-grass with sand or mud, make it unfit for the cattle, till it be washed by the rains. But the greatest damage is sustained when the corns are in the short-blade, immediately after the ear begins to make its appearance. A high flood, at that time, destroys, in a great measure, the crop. The farmers are careful to prevent the loss that might be occasioned from inundations in harvest, by removing the corns, as they are cut down, to higher grounds. Trout of a large size, and delicate taste, abound in this part of the Clyde. They are often caught about 20, and sometimes even 30 inches long. The red coloured are preferred to the white. The deepest places of the river produce, likewise, pike and perch. The best season for catching large trout with the rod, is reckoned to be from the middle to the end of June.

*Soil, Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—The lands in the parish are very different in quality. A considerable part of them is marshy and spongy on the surface; and as this kind of soil readily imbibes the rain, so, when it lies upon a clayey till, which, in many places, is the case here, it retains it long, and continues wet through a great part of the year. The lands which form the sloping sides of the hill, are mostly this sort; and cannot be cultivated by the plough to any considerable

considerable advantage. Some parts of them, however, are more clayey, and yield pretty good crops : "Other parts, which have a gravelly bottom, are dry and light ; and though they do not give very plentiful returns, are more to be depended on than the wet lands. But the greater part of the arable ground, which lies towards the river, is of a dry and good soil. Near the village it is a rich loam, inclining, in some places, to clay. Towards the N. E., it becomes light and sandy. In the west end of the parish, it is partly sandy, and partly clayey ; and, in the Clowburn lands, it is, in some places, gravelly and sharp, in others, soft and mixed with clay or moss. The bottom of these arable grounds is various ; sand, clayey till, or gravel. By proper management they may all be made to produce good crops. The soil of the haughs or holms is a mud which the river has brought down from the highest parts of the country. In general, it appears to have a considerable proportion of clay in its composition, from its adhesive quality when it is moistened by rain or the overflowing of the river. The depth of this mud is various, from 2 to 7 or 8 feet. Below it, there is generally found such a stratum of gravel and small stones, as lie in the fords. This stratum may, perhaps, serve the purpose of a drain to the haughs, which are generally dry. A singular fact seems to support this conjecture. A large haugh towards the west end of the parish, is not so dry as the other grounds of this kind, nor do the crops ripen so soon upon it as upon them. The soil of that haugh is not deposited upon a stratum of gravel, but of moss, which probably imbibes the water of the river, and communicates an uncommon degree of moisture to the superincumbent mud.

The mode of farming is not very different from what it was 20 or 30 years ago. Men are naturally attached to old customs ; and it requires some time, and repeated observa-

tion

tion, to be convinced of the propriety of changing them for new ones. Improvements in agriculture, however, when real and lasting, are gradually communicated and adopted. The attentive farmer sees it to be his interest to imitate the practice of those of his neighbours who turn their lands to better account; and he learns, by experience, to follow that plan, which is best suited to the soil and climate of his own grounds. There are several very judicious farmers in this parish and its neighbourhood, who have introduced many substantial improvements, and whose example will have its proper influence upon others. It is still, however, the practice with many to lay all their dung upon the croft-land, except what the out-field may receive by folding, or in the course of pasture; to take 2 crops of oats, and 1 of barley (or beer) \* from the former, and 3 or 4 crops of oats running from the latter; and to lay out their ground without sowing any grass-seeds. Too little attention, likewise, is paid to the killing of quick-grass and other noxious weeds. A great part of the lands here is well adapted to the culture of turnip and potatoes. This has been carried on, for some years, to a small extent; and the good effects of it, in cleaning the ground, and preparing it for barley and grass-seeds, ought to render it more prevalent. The turnip are employed in feeding milch-cows, once, or, at most, twice a-day, upon the fading of the pasture grass after harvest. When given oftener, they impart a disagreeable taste to the milk and butter: but this may be, in a great measure, prevented, by mixing with the milk, when it is put warm into the vessels, a small quantity of salt-petre dissolved in water. They are, likewise, very usefully employed in rearing young black cattle, and in fattening for

\* *Barley* is the name usually given to a better kind of grain that is not much grown in this higher part of the country; and the inferior sort that is more generally cultivated, is called *beer* or *rough beer*.

the butcher ; but so small a quantity has hitherto been raised here, that little attention has been paid to the last of these objects, though, in other places, it has justly been reckoned a very important one. The potatoes are either consumed at home, or sent to Lanark, where they bring from 5s. to 6s. the bushel. They are found to be an excellent food both for horses and black cattle. Formerly they were almost universally planted with the foot-dibble ; but this work is now generally done with the plough, in the drill-way. The haugh-ground is generally ploughed 3, and sometimes 4 years, for oats, and then allowed to lie as long in natural grass. Usually it gets no other manure but what it receives from the cattle in pasturing, or from the mud or slime, which is left upon it by the inundations of the river. Some very successful experiments were lately made by manuring a part of it with dung and lime. The crops were greatly improved by this new treatment. Excellent wheat and barley have been raised upon it. Pease are reckoned a precarious crop, in this part of the country ; yet they are sometimes sown, with advantage, upon sharp and clayey grounds. Beans are seldom planted, and only in particular spots of rich clayey land. Flax thrives well in many places of the parish. It is common to have 4, and even 5 stones of scutched lint from a peck. It is not, however, of such a fine quality as in the lower parts of the county ; and it is justly reckoned a severe crop. Several ploughs, made after the model of Mr. Small's, and drawn by 2 horses, are now used here. They are found to be well adapted to the soil of the haughs, and to all ground that is free of stones. In coarse and stony land, the common plough is found to answer better. The number of farms may be reckoned 16, besides small possessions : but one of these is rented by a farmer who lives in a neighbouring parish ; and another was lately thrown into grass. The principal crops

are

are oats, barley or beer, and potatoes. Of oats, the best croft land may be reckoned to yield from 8 to 12 bolls (Linlithgow measure) the acre; the haugh or holm ground from 3 to 6 bolls; and the other outfield ground from 2 to 4. An acre of barley (what is here called beer) gives from 8 to 13 bolls, of land that has been properly cleared of weeds, and otherwise prepared; of the foul land, from 6 to 9 bolls. From 40 to 80 bolls of potatoes, planted generally without dung upon the croft-land, is reckoned a good return from the acre. The produce of an acre of pease varies from 2 to 8 bolls. Wheat has been tried with some advantage, in a favourable season; but the situation of the ground seems to be too high, and the frosts too severe, to allow its being cultivated to any great extent. The sowing of grass-seeds has increased of late; and the good crops of hay that have been produced, give reason to hope that a still greater proportion of land will be employed in this manner. Two crops of hay have generally been taken from the small fields that were laid down with sown grass, after which they were pastured for 2 or 3 years: But a species of rye-grass has lately got into the country, which continues only for 1 year, and which often disconcerts this plan. Many of the farms here are remarkable for producing good butter and cheese; and perhaps there is not a greater quantity produced from the same extent of ground in any place of this country. The pasture on the haughs is undoubtedly very rich: and much attention is paid both to the breed of the cows, and management of their milk.

The horses are of a large size, and very fit for draught. A few are annually sold, at good prices. The number of work-horses may be reckoned about 90; and of young horses 44. That of the black cattle, of all ages, 366; and that of sheep about 450. These numbers may vary a little occasionally. The valued rent of the parish is 157*ls.* 8*d.* Scots. The real

rent may be nearly 90*s.* Sterling. The yearly rent of an acre of arable ground may be reckoned from 25*s.* down to 5*s.*, according to its quality\*.

*Population.*—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 330. There is reason to think that the number of inhabitants has decreased since the beginning of the current century. It appears, from an old register, that the average number of baptisms in a year was then 11*½*. About 30 years ago it was 9; and, for 12 years past, it has been nearly 8*½*. The account which the oldest persons give of the state of the parish in their youth, supports this conjecture. The farms, by being increased in size, have decreased in number; and many cottages have been demolished. In 1780, when an exact list was taken, the total number was 409: At the present time (May 1792), it is only 386. Of this number of persons there are,

Under 10 years of age,	94	Of whom there are,	
From 10 to 20,	87	Males,	180
— 20 to 50,	144	Females,	206
— 50 to 70,	44		
Above 70,	17		

The number of families is 77; the average number of persons in a family, therefore, is 5. In the village, which contains

\* *Price of Labour, &c.*—The wages of servants and day-labourers have risen considerably of late, from the great encouragement that has been given at the iron-foundery in the neighbouring parish of Carnwath, at the cotton-manufacture near Lanark, and other great works. For particulars, see the account of the neighbouring parish of Libberton. The demolishing of the cottages may justly be reckoned one great cause of the increased price of labour, in this part of the country. By this the number of hands has been diminished, whilst, from other causes, the demand for them has become greater.

tains 26 families, and 110 persons, it is about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ : In the country parish, which includes 276 persons, who reside in 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  separate houses, it is nearly 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . This difference arises from the numerous families of some of the farmers, who live in the country part of the parish. The number of married persons is 84; that of widowers and widows 18.

The great part of the people are employed in farming, or in occupations relative to it. At present, the number of professed farmers, or of such as may be said to live by this business, is only 14; and of these some possess but small farms. The servants which they usually employ, are about 60. But besides these, there is a considerable number of persons who have small possessions of land, and who follow, at the same time, some other employment. There are, likewise, a few tradesmen, such as are usually employed in the country; wrights, masons, weavers, and shoemakers. Of these the weavers are the most numerous, amounting, with journeymen and apprentices, to 11 or 12. Some of them are employed in the cotton manufacture, and use the fly-shuttle. The inhabitants are generally healthy; and many attain to a great age. Very lately there were 5, and still there are 4 persons above 80 years; 2 of them near to 87. A few years ago, a man died about the age of 92, who had been bred a mason, and had resided in this parish till a short time before his death. He was so stout and healthy, at the age of 86, that he was able to work, for some time, at his particular occupation. The health and longevity of the people may be owing, in some degree, to their being much employed in the open air. Stomach complaints, however, rheumatism, and consumptions, are not unfrequent; and the small-pox and measles carry off a number of the young. Inoculation for the small-pox has not yet become general, though it has been very successful wherever it was tried. The houses in the village, and over great

great part of the parish, are generally pretty neat and commodious. This must contribute to the health, as well as to the comfort of the inhabitants.

*Poor.*—The number of poor has been very small, for several years past. This has been owing, among other causes, to the care taken by the kirk-session to give a little aid betimes, to those that were likely to fall into necessitous circumstances; and thus, to prevent their coming upon the poor's list. It is too often found that many of those, who are accustomed to a regular supply, become idle and improvident. By losing their sense of independence, they lose regard to character. The manner of supporting the poor, in this part of Great Britain, though it be well calculated to check these evils, cannot altogether prevent them. When a small assistance, seasonably administered, will enable a poor man to continue his occupation, and to earn his bread for many years, it is certainly much better to afford it, than, by allowing him to sink into extreme poverty and wretchedness, to be obliged to admit him as a constant pensioner. The price of meal was so much raised in consequence of the great frost in harvest 1782, that it was thought necessary to give some temporary assistance to a number of the poorer class of people in this parish. Meal, and beef (which was then cheaper than meal) were sold to them considerably below the market price, till, by the next plentiful harvest, provisions were brought down to their ordinary rate. The same plan, to a smaller extent, was adopted in the end of 1784, another hard year: and, by these means, the distress, in which several industrious persons must have been involved, was prevented. The annual interest of 40 l. of stock, together with the ordinary collections, mort-cloth-money, &c. has hitherto been sufficient for the support of the poor.

*Church,*

*Church, School, Heritors, &c.*—The church is said to have been built towards the end of the last century. The date 1698 is found on the bell-house. The stipend consists of 80 bolls of meal, 21 of bear, and 7 l. money. The Earl of Hyndford is patron. The glebe contains about 8 acres, part of which is very good land. The manse was built in 1711; but has been repaired at different times.—There is a good house for the school and schoolmaster, and a small garden. His salary, including the annual produce of a mortification, is 9l. 1s. 8d. The number of scholars is about 30.—There are only three heritors, none of whom reside in the parish. The far greater part of the lands belongs to the Earl of Hyndford.

*Antiquities.*—In the confines of the parish on the S., and on the high moorish ground formerly mentioned, the vestiges of a large camp, or fortified station, are still very visible. It contains about 6 acres, which form an irregular figure, approaching to that of a circular area. The wall seems to have been very thick and high, and to have been composed chiefly of coarse stones, many of them a kind of flag, collected, probably, from the adjoining grounds; but there is no appearance of mortar or cement. It is situated upon the side of a deep moss, within which, at a little distance, are the remains of a small fort, scarcely including a rood of ground, which has evidently been connected with the large one by a passage made through the moss. The figure of this small fortification is likewise round, and the wall of it has been built with the same kind of stones. The large camp includes several springs of excellent water. Some urns were found, under the ruins of the wall, a great many years ago, by some people that were digging out the larger stones, for the purpose of building. They were each of them enclosed within four coarse flag stones, set on edge, and covered with one laid flat. The space

space included by these flag; was filled to a considerable depth, with a fine whitish sand, among which the urn was standing in an inverted position. Upon removing the urn, something of a soft slimy nature was found upon the sand, which, probably, might be the ashes of human bones. A large urn, surrounded with five small ones, was found in the bottom of a cairn of stones, about a quarter of a mile distant, and enclosed in a similar manner. This large camp has two smaller ones in its view; one of them to the north westward, upon the highest top of the hill, and the other to the south eastward, on the top of a little hill in Covington parish, each about the distance of half a mile. The first of these appears to have been surrounded with two walls, between which there has been a deep ditch. The walls have been built of large rough stones, such as are found upon the hill. A vast number of them still remain upon the place. This fortification has likewise been of a roundish figure.

On the top of a little rising ground, about half a mile W. from the village, there has stood one of those long stones which are known by the name of Crosses. It still lies near the place, and a socket of stone remains, in which it is said to have been fixed. From this place, which is connected with the plantations of Westraw, there is a delightful view of the house and enclosures of Carstairs, on the opposite side of the river.

The house of Westraw, or Westerhall, (as it is sometimes spelt in old writings), is probably ancient; but it has undergone so many alterations, that it has lost, in a great measure, the appearance of antiquity. The lands of Westerhall were given to Sir Adam Johnston of that ilk, in the time of James II. King of Scotland, in reward of his loyalty, and, in particular, for his activity in suppressing the rebellion of the Earl of Douglas. (Vide Crawford's Peerage.) It is probable

that

that when these lands in Lanarkshire were alienated, the same name was bestowed upon a part of the estate in Annandale, in order to keep up the memory of this event. The present Sir James Johnston of Westerhall is a descendant of this family. There have been several other old houses of some note in the parish, of which some are in ruins, and others entirely demolished. One of these was at Clowburn, in which the first tea used in this country is said to have been drunk towards the end of last century. It had been brought from Holland, according to the tradition, by Sir Andrew Kennedy, who was then proprietor of that part of the parish; and who, being Lord Conservator of the Scots Privileges at Campvere, had received it as a present from the Dutch East India Company.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The custom of thirlage to mills still prevails in this part of the country: but there is something singular in the state of this parish in that respect. A few only of the farms are thirled (or bound to grind corn) at the mill within the parish; the great part are thirled to that of Carmichael. It is but a little more distant than the other, and the milture is only one half.—A considerable quantity of meal, as well as of butter and cheese, is usually sent to market from this parish. Formerly it was the practice to send the meal to Carlisle, or farther, in its way to Glasgow. Of late a great part of it has been sold at Lanark, where the demand was much increased since the erection of Mr. Dale's cotton-works.—The moorish and high grounds in the parish might be rendered of greater value, and the country much beautified, by large clumps and belts of plantations. The great rise in the price of wood is another motive to this improvement. Within the last 40 years, the price of hard wood has been doubled, and that of fir quadrupled. The large size, and thriving state of the larches at Westraw, seem to recommend

this kind of trees in particular.—The fuel generally used in the parish is coal, and a few peats, which are brought from the other side of the river. The coal is mostly brought from Ponfeigh, which is near 7 miles distant from the village. The roads have been greatly mended within the last 20 years; but the materials are generally soft, which renders frequent repairs necessary. Some of the cross roads are very bad. The statute-labour is converted into money, and amounts to about 12 l. a-year. This sum, judiciously laid out, will soon accommodate the parish better in this important respect. The people, upon the whole, may be said to live comfortably in their situation. They are industrious and sober, and, in general, pay a commendable regard to religious institutions. There has only been one or two seceders in the parish for many years past. There are 3 ale-houses, which are so little frequented, that the industry, or morals of the people, do not appear to be, in any considerable degree, hurt by them. No person belonging to the parish has been prosecuted for any capital crime, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

## N U M B E R IV.

## P A R I S H O F C O L D I N G H A M .

(C O U N T Y O F B E R W I C K , S Y N O D O F M E R S E A N D T I V I O T D A L E ,  
P R E S B Y T E R Y O F C H I R N S I D E ).

*By JOHN RENTON, Esq. of Chesterbank\*.*

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*E x t e n t , S u r f a c e , &c,*

T H I S parish is the largest of any in this country, but not of the greatest value, as it includes a common moor, which contains above 600 English acres, of a very poor quality. There is no map of this parish. In some parts, it is between 6 and 7 miles in length, and as much in breadth, and is of a very irregular figure. The appearance of this parish is rather flat, there being no high hills in it, but a great proportion of rising grounds, of easy ascent, and gentle declivity, which are, with a few exceptions, all accessible by the plough, and which, as well as the valleys and plain ground, are of a fertile soil, excepting the heights about St. Abb's

\* The parish of Coldingham being at present vacant, the Statistical Account of that district was very obligingly undertaken by Mr. Renton.

Head, and other lesser parcels, which are bare and rocky, and part of the farms upon the edges of the common moor, which are of a coarse and cold soil, and excepting also the far greatest part of that moor itself, which, in its natural state, produces nothing but heath on the dry parts, and bent, and the coarsest sort of grass on the swampy wetish parts. This great common was, about 20 years ago, divided by the Court of Session among the heritors having interest therein, after much litigation, and at the expense of 1500 l. and upwards; considerable improvements, by enclosing, draining, and liming, have been made thereon, by several of the heritors. But it is believed few of them will find those improvements turn out to their advantage, as the soil is, in most parts, thin, marshy, and of the mossy kind, and the bottom of a tough, cold bluish clay. The general opinion seems to be, that the best use that it can be turned to, is by planting it. There are several peat mosses in this extensive moor; but few of the peats are of the black hard kind: they are generally of a brownish colour, soft and porous, and burn away in a blaze, are fitter for kindling than lasting firs, and as such they are now commonly used. The mosses themselves being much worn out, the digging and drying the peats has become more difficult and expensive, and they are now, from different causes, in a good measure, deserted, although peats and turfs were the principal fuel used in this parish from the earliest times; and this accounts for the barrenness and sterility of the moor, as the surface must have been repeatedly piled and carried off by the inhabitants, in the course of many ages.

*River, Fife, Sea-Coast, &c.*—The water of Eye, is the only water worth mentioning in this parish, it rises in the parish of Cockburnspath, very near the west boundary of this parish, and has its course through this and the parish of Ayton,

ton, and runs into the sea at Eyemouth. In this water there are plenty of trouts of excellent quality, generally small : there are indeed some pretty large, from 16 to 24 inches in length, but none of the true salmon kind. There is also a beautiful lake of water, about a mile west of St. Abb's Head, called Coldingham Loch. It is of a triangular figure, about a mile in circumference, and said to be several fathoms deep in some parts : the water is clear, and must be produced from springs, as there are no burns that run into it, and although it has no visible outlet, the depth always appears to be the same. The only fish in it, are the perch from 5 to 8 inches long, compact and firm in appearance, but dry eating. This lake appears to be well suited for a pleasure-boat, but there is none on it at present. It is situated many fathoms above the level of the sea. The extent of the sea-coast, in this parish, is about 6 miles from Eyemouth parish to that of Cockburnspath, and upon this part of the coast, the promontory of St. Abb's Head is situated, about which, and on the westward of it, the shore is dangerous and inaccessible, except at Lamfden shore, at which there are several fishing boats, and, on the eastward of St. Abb's Head, a considerable part of the shore is smooth and of easy access, particularly at Coldingham sands, and the farm of Northfield, where there are also several fishing boats : but there is no harbour for ships in this parish ; the only harbour in Berwickshire being at Eyemouth, the best and most accessible of any between Holy Island and Leith. There is a fine bay between St. Abb's Head and the fort of Eyemouth, in which ships bound for Eyemouth cast anchor and wait the time of tide for going into the harbour. Great plenty of fish are caught in the sea, on this part of the coast, such as haddocks, whiting, cod, and ling; lobsters, crabs, and other shell fish; turbot, skate, and herrings, all of excellent qualities, which, after supplying

ing the people in this neighbourhood, are carried to Dunie, Kelso, &c., and a great part are carried to Edinburgh. The haddocks have almost deserted this coast for these 2 or 3 years, but the cod and ling are more plentiful, and of better quality than formerly. The difference between the highest and lowest tides, on this shore, is about 20 feet; and there are great quantities of sea-weed, commonly called sea-ware, thrown ashore here, the coarser part of which is carried off with avidity, and applied as manure to the land near the shore. The finer parts are manufactured into kelp, and produce from 30 to 40 tons yearly. The greatest part of this finer sort, grows upon the rocks situated between the high and low water-marks, and is cut and manufactured into kelp only once in 3 years.

*Town of Coldingham.*—The town of Coldingham appears to have been of very high antiquity; for the monastery was one of the most ancient and flourishing on the east of Scotland, and previous to the consecration of the famous St. Cuthbert, the bishop of Lindisferne, i. e. Holy Island, which was performed in the Cathedral of York, in the year 685. This monastery, then a famous and stately edifice, was consumed and burnt \*. The town of Coldingham stands in a snug dry valley,

\* It is said (Sir D. Dalrymple's Annals, vol. I. p. 48.) to have been rebuilt by King Edgar, in the year 1098, and that at its consecration to the Virgin, he assisted in person, when it was constituted into a priory of Benedictines, to which a colony of Monks from Durham were introduced; and that for several succeeding generations, it continued to depend upon the convent of Durham; that K. Edgar ordered a house to be built for himself, at a small distance from the church (part of the walls of which house are still to be seen, and are called Edgar's walls at this day); and besides this mansion-house, he bestowed on the priory, the lands of Auld Cambus, Lumsden, Renton, Swinewood, Fairneyfide, the 2 Aytons, Prendergust, and Grainsmouth, all places in the neighbourhood, and

valley, having a small rivulet of excellent water running upon each side of it, and is about a mile distant from the sea. It is surrounded with rising fields of gentle ascent, all of excellent quality ; but there are no prospects from the town beyond half a mile's distance. It appears from old writings, and by parts of the foundations of old buildings, that several of the crofts about the town, now arable, had been anciently the sites of houses and gardens. It must, therefore, have been much more populous than it is at present\*. Before the common moor was divided, this town was dull and unpleasent, in appearance, as all the houses were covered with turfs and divots from that moor. All the inhabitants were averse to the division, because they foresaw, that this servitude, and that of the peats and turfs for fuel, would be much confined.

and at present known by the same names ; as also, the lands of Swinton, and 24 beasts for tilling them ; and likewise the lands of Paxton, Fishwick, and all the lands adjoining to the latter, lying between Harnden and Knabton, places of great extent and value on the banks of the river Tweed, and still called by the same names ; and that he also gave to this church, the same privileges which were at that time possessed by Holy Island and Norham, viz. 37 days to all who fed thither, and half a merk of silver to the Monks of Coldingham from every plough in Coldingham shore, for which the possessors of these lands voluntarily submitted and engaged for its punctual payment.

\* The prior resided here with all his train and dependents ; and the church and other buildings about it were extensive and magnificent, but are all now incomplete ruins, except the present kirk, which is dark within, and shabby without. The revenue of this priory must have been very considerable ; for, besides the temporal lands which belonged to it, they had right to the drawn teinds of 13 parishes. After the general annexation, this priory was erected into a temporal lordship in favour of John Stuart, a natural son or grandson of K. James the 5th. It seems he had sold a great part of the lands and teinds, and the remainder were carried off by the Earls of Home, by decrets of apprising and other legal diligences. They have been long in possession, and partly by voluntary, and partly in consequence of decrets of valuation and sale, have laid the subjects adjudged, at least the far greatest part of them, but have still right to the feu-duties of a great number of feuars and heritors.

fined. But in place of their being sufferers by the division, it has turned out much to their advantage, for great numbers of them were employed all the summer time in digging and preparing peats and turfs; but after they were, in a great measure, restricted from that servitude, they found more profitable employment, from the spirit of improvements which had become general, and were soon able to get coals for their fuel: and they are now in a more thriving condition in every respect, than they enjoyed before the division; for, since that period, they have not only built a good many new houses, which they have covered with tiles, and some with blue slates, but they have rebuilt several of the old houses and covered them with this sort of covering; and the town has now a more lively and cheerful appearance, and their wealth and population are visibly increasing. The number of souls in this town, at present, is 718, whereof 317 are males, and 401 females.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 2313. By an accurate list made out in the year 1791, the heads of families in this parish are 529; the number of souls 2391, of whom 1136 are males, and 1255 females. There were 643 under 10 years; 502 between 10 and 20; 938 between 20 and 50; 213 between 50 and 70; and 95 between 70 and 100. By the session-clerk's attestation, it appears, that from the 1st of January 1790 to 1st January 1793, there have been 113 baptisms, 70 deaths, and 31 marriages: That the assessments laid on by the heritors, for the paupers, have been at the rate of 4 months land-tax, *communibus annis*, for these last 3 years, or 69l. 7s. 4d. Sterling yearly, exclusive of the collections at the church doors; and the numbers of the poor are increasing, which may be ascribed to the too common use of tea, and the immoderate use

use of whisky. There is not a single surgeon in this parish. The people in general are moderate and healthy ; few agues of late years ; fevers and consumptions are the ordinary fatal diseases here, especially to young women. Few of the common people will allow inoculation ; they say it is an encroachment upon the prerogative of providence ; and it is in vain to tell them, that prudence is the gift of providence, and that it is their indispensable duty to use every prudential and approved means to save the lives of their children.

*Stipend, Heritors, &c.*—The Crown is patron. The manse and offices are in good repair, and the kirk was divided among the heritors, new seated and repaired about 20 years ago. The glebe and the garden are among the best in this presbytery. The stipend, which, by a process of augmentation in 1739, was converted into money, is 881. 13s. ; and the minister has right to the teinds of the 7 fishing boats in this parish, for which the last incumbent accepted of 20s. yearly for each of those boats. By the conversion of the vicinal stipend in 1739, into money, the minister thought himself a considerable sufferer. By the land-tax or cess-roll of this county, it appears there are 67 heritors, great and small, in this parish, and that our monthly cess is 208 l. 2s. Scots ; that 1 l. 12s. Scots, or 2s. 8d. Sterling of monthly cess, is equal to 100 l. Scots of valued rent, being the qualification of a commissioner of supply ; and that there are only 19 of these 67 heritors, whose valued rent amounts to that qualification. None of the heritors whose real rent exceeds 400 l. Sterling, reside within the parish ; and almost all the smaller heritors possess their own lands. Some of them are in easy circumstances, others not. Within these 40 years, the full half of the lands in this parish have been sold by their former proprietors, and have always met with ready purchasers ; and

the rents, as well as the price of land here, are still advancing.

*Agriculture.*—Before the spirit of improving land began to appear here, there were 3 considerable villages besides the town of Coldingham, viz. Renton, Auchencraw, and the 2 Prestons; but since that, the heritors have built good farmsteadings upon the most centrical parts of their outfields. Hence, the villages of Renton and East Preston, have disappeared, and Auchencraw and West Preston have dwindled to less than the half of what they were before that period. There are above 60 farms in this parish, besides the acres that lie around the town of Coldingham. The rents of the farms are from 20 l. to 500 l. and upwards. Several of the heritors who possess their own properties, as well as our principal farmers, are inferior to none in industry and skill for the improvement and management of land to the best advantage \*.

Some

\* Previous to the year 1760, almost the whole farms in this and the neighbouring parishes were laboured and cropt in the following manner, viz. about one-fourth of the arable land as infield, and the other three-fourths as outfield; but for the better understanding that mode of cropping and management, suppose a farm consisting of 400 acres of arable land (besides meadow and marshy ground unfit for tillage) to have been let, the tenant became bound by the lease to fallow and dung one-fifth part of the infield yearly, and not to take above 4 crops thereof between fallowings, one of which to be barley, and another a pease crop, and so on through the course of the tack: and with respect to the outfield, he was allowed to have only one-third part of it in corn, in any one year, which third he was obliged to fallow, and to give it 3 or more ploughings between Whitsunday and the ensuing seed time; and after taking 3 crops of oats off it successively, he was obliged to allow it to lie in ley for 6 years before it was again riven out and fallowed, and so on with the other two-thirds of the outfield, until the expiration of his tack. By that mode of management, the land was so much washed and worn out, that the fourth crop of the infield, and the third from the outfield, frequently did not produce the double of the seed; and the only pasture such a farmer had for supporting his stocking of horses,

Some years prior to 1760, a few individuals, of more than ordinary penetration and discernment, having discovered the mighty effects of lime in Northumberland, they ventured to make experiments of its effects upon the lands in Berwickshire; and from their exertions and success, a spirit of improvement became general: and in consequence of the great demand for lime, additional lime-kilns were erected, both upon this, and on the other side of Berwick, and the great quantities produced from them, as well as what was brought in ships from Sunderland, and landed at Eymouth, have been truly amazing. Our farming heritors and freeholders above alluded to, in this parish, soon began and carried on the improvements of their several possessions, with equal spirit and success. They soon discovered the inefficacy and impropriety of their former mode of cropping, and relinquished it unanimously; and, in place thereof, adopted a quite new and different system. They began it by fallowing and cleansing all their old infiel'd, and then sowing upon it barley or oats, and red and white clover, with a small mixture of rye-grass; some of them did, and others did not lay their muck upon that fallow: because old infiel'd, even when it appears to be worn out and wasted by corn crops, will produce luxuriant crops of clover and rye-grass, without manure; and so it happened with those improvers. They did not even bestow any lime upon that old infiel'd fallow, as lime has been found to have little effect upon old infiel'd; and it only discovers its powers upon fresh land. And having thus disposed of their infiel'd, by laying

horses, black cattle, and sheep, was the poor graft upon the two-thirds of out-field ley, and the meadow and marshy spots in the farm in the summer and autumn, and dry straw in winter and spring. The poor condition in which these animals appeared, in the months of March and April every year, demonstrated the scarcity and poor quality of their food. They were small, lean, and very weak.

it off in grass, partly for hay, and partly for pasturage, which afforded them plenty of meat for their horses employed in driving lime, and carrying on their improvements in the next, and other years, they then applied their whole strength for manuring their outfield, at the rate of 40 to 50 bolls of lime-shells\* to the English acre, which, after being fallowed, and so limed, produced three good crops, viz. oats, barley, oats; or, oats, pease, barley. They then fallowed, and, laying all their muck upon the fallow well pulverized, they formed it into drills, and sowed turnips on the drills, which were eaten by their sheep in the winter, and then ploughed and sowed it up with grass-seeds, in the same manner as the infield; and so they went on with the rest of the outfield, and by the end of 10 or 12 years, their farms were all thus improved, and were all managed and cropt thereafter as infield, and in the following manner, viz. They commonly allowed their sown up grass ground to remain in grass for at least 3 years, some 4 or 5, and haying and pasturing it alternately; and after sowing it out for corn-crops, they took only three crops from the richest and best parts of the farms; these were oats, barley, oats; or, oats, pease, wheat, if the land had any tolerable mixture of good clay in it; and they then fallowed it, sowed up the turnip-land with barley, oats, and grass-seeds, as before. In their middling soil, they took only two crops of corn, oats and barley, and thereafter fallow, turnip, barley and grass-seeds; and in the weakest and lightest of their soil, they only took one crop of oats, and then fallow, turnip, barley, and grass-seeds; and in this second course they also gave it another liming of 25 to 30 bolls lime-shells the acre, and commonly with the second crop of the strongest and middling soils; and

\* Our boll of lime is 4 bushels or half a quarter. The price of what is imported at Eyemouth, is 1s. 4d. the boll; and that brought from beyond Berwick is 8d., besides the carriage.

and their whole dung and fulzie was always bestowed on the turnip fallow.

Their chief object is to have the lands laid down into grass in good heart, and it will improve every year, if pastured with sheep; and after a farm is improved, in manner above written, our farmers have never less than half of it in grass, and some of them two-thirds; because they find that such rich grass fields bring them as much profit as their corn fields do. If so, the lands must be in the highest condition, and may be kept so by prudent management, at no considerable expense. It is by too many corn crops, and too frequent crops of hay, that lands are deteriorated, to prevent which should be the chief attention of landlords and their managers. No sensible honest farmer will ever attempt to injure or run out his farm by scouring crops, towards the end of his tack; and no capricious fool will ever find such dishonest means profitable. By departing from the old, and adopting this new system of management, our farmers have reaped profits equal to their expectations; their corn fields have been far more productive, and their stocking of all kinds bring them more than triple the prices they were sold at, before their farms were so improved. Of late years, they have sold their hogs at or above 20 s. a-head; their two-years old from 25 s. to 30 s.; and their older sheep between 30 s. and 40 s., and some at higher prices. No pains nor expenses have been spared to procure the breed both of black cattle and sheep fittest for their several pastures. In small farms, where there are no sheep, the tenants let their turnip crops from 2 l. to 4 l. the acre. The turnip belonging to the greater farmers are eaten by their own sheep. Our best landlords have no scruple to let their farms to good farmers for 25 to 31 years, where the farms are not improved; and indeed no tenant will take a lease of any shorter duration, where he has the farm to improve at his own

own expense. Many of the landlords allow the incoming tenants a considerable deduction from the yearly rent, for buying lime for assisting them in their improvement\*.

*Manufactures.*—We have few manufactures in this parish, owing to our distance from collieries. But although our coals are dearer, our grain is cheaper by 18 d. or 2 s. a boll, than it is about Glasgow and Paisley. Our supernumerary young men go partly to England, and partly to Edinburgh, and other populous towns in Scotland, in quest of employment. Very few of them relish either the sailor or soldier's way of life. Our young women are, for the most part, employed in spinning, of which they make very small wages, not exceeding 2 s. a-week. It is said that sundry manufacturers in Edinburgh, and other places, have of late years sent them quantities of lint to spin here, which they return in yarn; and that this employment increases every year. Our handicraftsmen

and

\* The yearly gains or wages of a single hind in this parish, are 10 bolls oat, 2 bolls barley, 1 boll pease, a house and a small kail yard, a cow's meat, land for sowing a firkin of potatoes, the carriage of 3 or 4 carts coal, from 20s. to 30s. for sheep-money, their victuals while working at hay, or in harvest; his wife reaps in harvest for the house, and she and her bairns, that can work, get from 3d. to 6d. a-day, for weeding turnips and potatoes, and for gathering and carrying off stones from the sown grass grounds. The lotmen or threshers of corn, get the 25th boll in name of wages; some farmers give them a bottle of small-beer at a certain hour of the day, which is very necessary, and it enlivens them much. A ploughman or carter who lives in the farmer's house, gets from 6l. to 7l. yearly: a day-labourer gets 10d. in winter, and 1s. the rest of the year, winter being reckoned at 4 months: masons and wrights from 16d. to 20d. a-day: the other tradesmen are commonly paid for piece work: a maid servant gets from 3l. to 4l. a-year. All these wages, except the hinds and herds, who are paid in kind, have been raised one-third part, at least, within these last 40 years. Even the hind's and herd's are increased, by the difference of their cow's meat and the sowing of potatoes; some of them are allowed to sow a peck or a half of lintseed, and every faithful servant commonly gets some additional gratifications from their masters and mistresses.

and labourers seem to depend upon the farmers for their subsistence, as they are principally employed by them. There are, however, about 36 master weavers in the parish, who, besides what they weave for the inhabitants, manufacture a good deal of linen and woollen cloths for sale. They are generally in easy circumstances, and some of them are becoming rich in that line of life.

*Professions, Manners, &c.—*There are several shopkeepers in the town of Coldingham, but none of them deal extensively. No writers or attorneys of influence; nor is there one single justice of peace resident in this large parish. No Papists, Episcopals, or Unitarians. The established Presbyterian religion is the only manner of worship attended to and professed here; there are, however, a few seceders, who attend the Burgher and Antiburgher meetings at Ayton. They tax themselves with a proportion of the expense of building the meeting-houses, and the preacher's stipend. Thus they sacrifice their money, as toll-dues, for the safest or surest passage to the regions of complete happiness in a future state. The generality of the people in this parish are sober, frugal, and industrious, plain and decent in their dress and deportment, and very few of them discover any desire for fineries, or expensive amusements. The only extravagance they are guilty of is their breakfasting upon tea, in place of pottage, the constant morning diet of their more athletic ancestors, which debilitates them; (here I do not include the principal families) and the immoderate use of whisky, which too many of the lower class are guilty of, which destroys them. This is owing to the cheapness of these two superfluous and pernicious articles, which appear to be objects more fit for taxation than coals, candles, leather and soap, which are as necessary in the poorest families, as their meal and milk.

*Exports,*

*Exports, &c.*—The quantities of grain, particularly oats and barley, for we do not grow much wheat or pease, as well as the numbers of black cattle and sheep, sold from this parish, at Eyemouth, Berwick, and to mealmakers, ~~consumers~~, are very considerable, but cannot be ascertained with any degree of exactness; and it is impossible to know the number of quadrupeds, without a special survey. All roots and vegetables necessary for the kitchen are raised in great plenty in this parish; and we sell a great share of our potatoes: but there is neither hemp nor lint raised here, except by some individuals, who raise a little of the latter for their family purposes, and their servants for theirs; and all our grain is commonly got into the barn-yards by Michaelmas O. S. except in cold, wet seasons, such as the last, and also excepting the farms adjoining the common moor: there the corns are three or four weeks later in ripening than those in the warmer and more fertile fields.

*Disadvantages.*—The greatest disadvantage peculiar in this parish, is the distance and dearth of fuel. Since the division of the common moor, our chief fuel is coals, which we bring in carts from the collieries in Northumberland, at the distance of 14 miles from the centre of this parish. The Author of Nature, who always acts for good and wise purposes, for the general good of the whole creation, hath denied the benefit of coal-mines to every part of the county of Berwick; at least none such have as yet been discovered. The legislature, in supplement and addition to our want of that necessary article, did, in Queen Anne's days, saddle all water-borne coals that should be landed at Eyemouth, our only sea-port, with a duty of 3 s. 8 d. the ton, and at same time exempted Dunbar, North Berwick, and all the other ports in the Frith of Forth from payment of any duty for coals. How far that law can be

be reconciled with equity and justice, which are; or ought to be the foundation of all laws, cannot be easily conceived.

*Birds of Passage, Sea-Fowl, &c.*—There are only two birds of passage, the woodcuck and the dotterel; ever seen here; the first frequents the woods, and are few in number; the second appear in vast numbers on the heights. They both arrive in the spring, and are seldom seen here after the month of June. There is also a prodigious number of sea-fowls, known by the names of scouts and kittywakes, with a mixture of sea-gulls, that arrive in the spring yearly, upon the high and inaccessible rocks on the south side of St. Abb's Head. They breed incredible numbers of young; and about the end of May, when the young are said to be ripe, but before they can fly, the gentlemen in the neighbourhood find excellent sport by going out in boats, and shooting great numbers of them; when they are killed or wounded, they fall from the rocks into the sea, and the rowers haul them into their boats. Their eggs are pretty good, but their flesh is very bad; yet the poor people eat them. They leave the rocks about harvest; and none of them are ever seen here before the next spring. Where they go to in winter, nobody knows.

*Antiquities.*—There are the remains of a church, or chapel of ease, on the heights of St. Abb's Head. Part of the side-walls are still standing upright \*.

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Fast

\* It is said that this promontory got its name from Lady Ebbæ, who was daughter of one of the kings of Northumberland, in the time of the heptarchy; that a violent war having happened in her father's dominions, in which he was defeated, she found it advisable to take refuge in Scotland; and that accordingly she, accompanied by some friends and domestics, went to sea in a small vessel, bound for some port in the Firth of Forth; but a contrary wind having sprung

East Castle is situated on the banks of the sea, on the N. W. corner of this parish. It is now in complete ruins. It must, from the steepness of the rocks on which it stood, have been inaccessible on all parts, except by a narrow neck, or entry from the land, of a few feet in breadth. At the date of Gowry's conspiracy, it belonged to Logan of Restalrigg. Every body knows his fate, or rather that of his family. Several years after he was in his grave, he was tried and condemned, and his whole estates were forfeited, and bestowed upon the then Earl of Dunbar, for his being engaged in that conspiracy: A silly body of the name of Sprot, a notary in Eyemouth, produced some treasonable letters that passed between Gowry and Logan; and he was rewarded by being hanged at Edinburgh cross. There was a fortalice, or family castle at Renton, another at Houndwood, one at West Preston, and one at East Preston, in which the proprietors of these estates resided. They have been all demolished, since the commencement of this century, and the stones and materials applied to other purposes.

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sprung, they could not weather the Head, but landed in some part near it, probably at Coldingham sands; and being hospitably received by the bishop or prior of Coldingham, she was soon appointed Abbess, or some such dignified rank in that church, and, from a principle of gratitude, built that chapel at her own expense, after which the promontory was known by the name of St. Abb's head. There is also a tradition, and it even appears in some part of the history of these times, (which by the by the writer hereof never read), that upon an invasion of the Danes, this Lady Ebba, or some of the succeeding Abbesses, and her or their nuns of Coldingham, cut off their noses, for preventing their being violated by these terrible foes. And by way of contrast to that very singular mode of preserving their chastity, it is said that the Pope, in some of his charters to this Convent, indulged the Monks with the use of some females at certain periods, *ob purgandis renis*; and that some of these charters are preserved in the cathedral of Durham to this day. And it has been always currently reported and believed here, that all the principal writings and archives of this priory were carried off and deposited at Durham, some time before the Reformation, and also some of their largest bells.

The only camp that now appears to have been in this parish, is that upon the height called Warlaw, on the westward of Auchencraw. It is of an oval form, and contains 5 or 6 acres of very poor moor land; but history and tradition are silent about it.

*Roads, &c.*—Previous to the year 1772, the roads in this county were repaired by the statute-work in kind, but which was much neglected; and what part thereof that was performed, was always done in the most slovenly and injudicious manner. By that time several inclosures were made by our improvers, upon the sides of the highways. Necessity is the strongest prompter; and the gentlemen being sensible of the continual trespasses that must happen to their fences, unless the roads were made passable, they applied for, and obtained an act of parliament for making turnpike roads, and for converting the statute-labour into money. No turnpikes were ever erected in consequence of that law, in this parish; but the statute-work, so converted, was rigorously exacted, and applied under the direction of the district meetings. The amount of these conversions in this parish, since 1772, may be about 3000 l. Sterling. The great post-road leading across the common moor, naturally rough, wet, and deep, swallowed up a great part of these conversions for many years, and a new separate turnpike act was thought necessary, for completing and upholding the repairs of that great road from Dunglass-bridge to Berwick bounds, which was accordingly obtained; and at same time a fine new bridge was built over the Pease water, and that whole great post-road is now completely repaired. Hence this part of the post-road, through Berwickshire, which was formerly the worst and most dangerous part of it, between Edinburgh and London, is now in perfect good repair; and the increase of travellers, especially in car-

riages, far exceeds all expectation ; and our statute conve-  
sions, which exceed 140 l. Sterling yearly, will, it is believed,  
be sufficient for forming and supporting all the other roads in  
good condition, under proper management, which hitherto  
seems to have been exceptionable.

The greatest part of the lands in this parish have been en-  
closed within these last thirty years, (if we except the com-  
mon moor), generally by ditch and hedge, and some with  
stone-fences ; and there is little doubt of the whole being en-  
closed in a few years hence, (with the above exception).  
Thorn hedges thrive well here, so do trees of all sorts ; but  
our artificial plantations are few. There are a good many na-  
tural woods, near the head of the water of Eye. They con-  
sist chiefly of oak, hazel, and bitch. Some parts of these woods  
are let to tanners, who peel and carry off the bark of the oak  
trees, and sell the timber to farmers. The brushwood and  
loppings are bought for fuel.

N U M-

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF ABBAY OF ST. BATHANS.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUSAIR.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN SKED.*

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*Situation, Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.*

THE smallness of this parish, and its retired situation, afford but little scope for statistical investigation; being situated in that mountainous part of Berwickshire which stretches into the middle of the Lammermoor hills, where the soil in general is barren, and the country but thinly inhabited. Its form is irregular; its greatest extent from E. to W. is about 6 or 7 miles in length, and in some places its breadth from S. to N. about 3 miles. The parish in general is hilly, greater part of which is covered with heath. On the side of the water of Whitadder, and the small rivulets which run into it, there are, in many places, considerable tracts of low lying grounds which are naturally fertile, and which, when properly cultivated, are capable of producing all kinds of grain,

grain, wheat not excepted. Besides the haugh lands, there are, in many of the higher parts of the parish, considerable quantities of the land in tillage, the greater part of which has been improved by lime brought from East Lothian; and, in favourable seasons, the farmer commonly finds a very good return. The soil is light and dry. Though, from the elevated situation of the parish, the climate is cold, yet it is in general healthy, and few diseases prevail among the inhabitants.

*River.*—The only river in the parish is Whitadder, which is here a considerable stream, being about 15 miles from its source, and having received, in its course, the river Dye, the rivulet Monnynuk, and numberless other smaller ones. It abounds with plenty of trouts, and affords excellent sport to the angler. Salmon and sea-trout are sometimes found in it in summer, though seldom in great quantities. Prodigious numbers of them come up during the prohibited months for fishing, and ledge their spawn in the channel of the river. There is but too much reason to regret, that the inhabitants destroy them at that time, as it tends both to injure their own health, by making use of the fish in the weak and unhealthy state in which they then are, and is a great prejudice to the salmon-fishing in the river Tweed.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 80. There are at present 164 inhabitants in the parish, of whom 85 are males, and 79 females; all of whom, except a few mechanics, are employed in purposes of husbandry, either as day-labourers, hired servants to farmers, or shepherds. They are in general sober, frugal, and industrious, and are contented with their situation. When

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the present incumbent was settled here in 1775, the number of inhabitants was 145.

*Agriculture.*—Though, like other parts of Lammermoor, the lands are in general more adapted to the breeding of cattle and sheep than the raising of corn, yet, on all the different farms there are considerable parts of the ground under cultivation; and on some of them different kinds of grain, particularly early oats are produced, little inferior in quality to those that are raised in the lower parts of Berwickshire. The chief object, however, that the skilful farmer has in view in making use of the plough in this part of the country, is not so much the immediate return from the corn he raises, as the meliorating the pasture for his cattle and sheep, by sowing his fields with artificial grass seeds, particularly rye-grass and white clover, which thrive well on all the dry grounds that have been improved with lime. Those who have followed this method, have not only been able to keep a much greater quantity, but have also, by this means, an opportunity of greatly improving the breed both of their cattle and sheep. Turnips are also raised on most of the farms in this neighbourhood, though in much smaller quantities than might be expected, as the soil is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of that useful plant \*.

*Heritors, Stipend, &c.*—There are 6 heritors in this parish, none of whom, excepting one of small property, are resident.

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\* *Price of Labour.*—The wages of male servants who get their board in the house, are from 7*l.* to 8*l.* a-year; of female servants, from 3*l.* to 4*l.* Servants who have families and keep a house, are paid in grain, have a cow grazed, and other perquisites, which may altogether amount to between 14*l.* and 15*l.* The wages of day-labourers are about 1*s.* in winter, and above it in summer; but in hay time and harvest, they have considerably more.

The rental of the parish is about 600 l. a-year. The Crown is patron of the church. The value of the living, exclusive of the manse and glebe of 14 acres, is about 52 l. a-year. The church is a very ancient building; it was formerly large, measuring 58 feet by 26, but a part of the wall was lately taken down by the desire of the heritors, and the size of the church greatly contracted; it is still sufficiently large to accommodate the inhabitants of the parish.

*Antiquities.*—Between the church and the water of Whithadder, are the remains of an ancient nunnery; it is almost totally demolished, the stones having been carried away for other purposes; from the vestiges, however, which are still to be seen, the building seems to have been of considerable extent. From any materials that I have been able to collect, this nunnery, of Abbey of St. Bathan's, seems to have been founded by one of the Countesses of March, during the reign of King William the Lyon, who succeeded to the Crown of Scotland in 1165, and reigned 49 years; so that it must have happened between 1165 and 1214. In 1296, Ada, Countess of March, swore fidelity for this nunnery to Edward I. King of England, who had then subdued great part of Scotland; and in return, directed a writ to the sheriff of Berwick to restore to the nunnery all its lands and tenements. It was a cell of South Berwick, and the nuns were of the order of Bernardines or Cistercians. This religious order had been begun by Robert, Abbot of Milesme, in the diocese of Longres in France, in 1098—were called Monachi Abbi, White Monks, from their wearing white robes, except a black cowl or scapular—were called Bernardines from Bernard, the great propagator of the order, who founded 160 monasteries, divided into 36 provinces, whereof Scotland was 26th, and had 13 monasteries—were called Cistercians from their chief house

and monasteries in Cistercium in France. There is in the wall, near the altar-place in the church, a font stone with a lead pipe in the bottom, and from springs in the braes to the south, the church and buildings adjoining had been supplied with water by means of lead pipes, part of which have been seen by people thereabout, after being dug up about 40 years ago. To the south, and round the church and nunnery, were gardens, now arable land, and on that account were called the Precinct Yards, and round the whole had been a walk of 3 tiers of stones, which have also been seen by those who raised part of them. After observing that the nunnery lies upon the south side of the water of Whitadder, it may be added, that there are pleasant haughs adjoining, sheltered from the north, by Shannabank wood of natural oak, on a steep brae, rising to a great height, and forming at top a semicircle, and from the east, by Blackerstone braes and natural wood there. On the south of these haughs, and at a small distance from the nunnery, issues a spring called St. Bathan's well, that neither fogs nor freezes, and prevents a dam-lead from Whitadder serving a corn-mill below, being locked up with ice in winter. About a quarter of a mile from the nunnery, on the same side of the water, lie the foundations of a small chapel and yard holding that name; but there are no marks of people having buried in it: about a mile from the nunnery, on the other side of the Whitadder, is situated Trois Fontaines (3 springs or wells) on the side of Maegnut water which empties into the Whitadder here, where the remains of a chapel and burying-ground are yet extant. It has always been handed down, that a subterraneous passage went from the nunnery of St. Bathan's, below the water of Whitadder, to this chapel, where the nuns passed along to be confessed by the clergy from Coldingham, who had a house at God's croft in this parish, and at a little distance from the

chapel. Trois Fontaines was also a cell of South Berwick ; but I have not been able to find any writings relating to it, and so can give no further account of it.

*Trees, Game, &c.*—On the lands of Abbay and farms adjoining, grow naturally the oak, the mountain-ash, the hazel, the birch tree, besides other trees ; the honey-suckle, the anise, the rasp, the juniper, the brier, and bramble, &c. On the lands are plenty of moorfowl, partridge, gray plover, hares, rabbits, &c.

*Country Seat.*—I beg leave to add, that about a mile east from the village of Abbay, is a country seat of the Earl of Wemyss, called the Retreat. It was built by his Lordship about 12 years ago, upon his estate of Blackerstone, and though not within the bounds of this parish, deserves to be taken notice of in the statistical account of it, as it tends very much to beautify this part of the country. The house is of a circular form, and built after a new and singular plan : as the elegant simplicity of the architecture, the neatness and convenience of the different apartments, and the manner in which the grounds around it are laid out, do great credit to the taste of the proprietor ; so its retired situation on the banks of the Whitadder, in the heart of a mountainous country, together with natural wood, and the extensive plantations with which it is surrounded, render it a truly delightful and romantic retreat.

## NUMBER VI.

## PARISH OF SOUTHDEAN.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE,  
PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH.)

*By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM SCOTT.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, Climate.*

SOUTHDEAN, the name of the parish, is evidently descriptive of its local situation, and the former state of the surrounding country, as it is probable that all the neighbouring parishes were anciently one continued forest. The extent of the parish is about 12 miles long, and 7 broad; this proportion continues about 9 miles, and gradually diminishes into a narrow space. There are different kinds of soil; gravel, a light black earth, and a strong clay, in the lower parts; along the Jed, it is gravel, inclining to heath; from thence, to the ascent of the hills, it is light earth, and upon their declivity, it is strong clay. The present arable ground is very inconsiderable, as great part of the parish is

more adapted to sheep pasture. The few hills are green and dry. The air is moist and chilly; greatly changes in different parts of the parish: all kinds of farm work can be carried on in the lower grounds, when it rains, or even a fall of snow appears in the heights. It is, however, a healthy parish. There are at present inhabitants above 80 years of age. The diseases most common, are rheumatisms, pains in the stomach and bowels, owing, likely, to the low and damp situation of their houses. In former times, the small-pox frequently prevailed, and in some seasons almost depopulated the country. About 12 years ago, this fatal disease raged in the lower parts of Tiviotdale, which determined Lord Douglas to hold out the advantages of inoculation to the poorer sort in this parish. The physician, employed by his Lordship, was successful. Inoculation is now become almost universally the practice.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 480. From tradition, as well as innumerable vestiges and ruins of houses, population must have been considerable about a century ago, and from general opinion, it is greatly diminished. In a late measurement of the Forest estate in this parish, the arable land is computed at 4865 acres, the evident traces of former times; the present arable ground is limited to a few hundred acres. It is said, the examination-roll in 1724, amounted to upwards of 1600. An accurate list of the inhabitants was taken about 17 years ago, and fell short of 900. This decrease became rapid, from the junction of farms. There are at present 714 souls in the parish: above 19 years of age 569. The number of deaths cannot be so well ascertained, and the marriages still less. The annual number of births is 10.

*Sleep,*

*Sheep, Horses, &c.*—It has long been the farmers greatest study to introduce the best kinds of sheep. Individuals have much improved their flocks, both from acquired knowledge and information, and with more certain advantages, by their own experience, observation, and daily practice. Most farmers keep a part of their sheep white. Smearing, however, is still generally in practice in this parish. It is said to increase the quantity of wool. It preserves the sheep also from the influence of rains, from scab, and vermin of every sort. There are 130 horses in the parish, 428 black cattle, and it is believed about 17,000 sheep. The laid wool in this parish, sold last year from 18s. to 20s. the stone, and the white wool at 11. 4s. the stone. Seven or eight fleeces go to a stone.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The King is patron of the old parish of Abbotrule, and Lord Douglas of Southdean. The stipend is 102 l. 1 s. Sterling, a manse and a glebe; in all amounting to 117 l. Sterling yearly. The church was built in 1690, and the manse in 1736, both in extremely bad order. The schoolmaster is accommodated with a house and garden. The salary is 8 l. 4 s. 8 d. Sterling. This, with the school wages, and various emoluments, makes a living of 20 l. Sterling. The number of poor is about 22. Their maintenance amounts to 56 l. a year, arising from assessments, Sundays collections, and the mortcloth dues.

*Crops.*—The chief crops in this parish are oats and barley. Potatoes are common. The culture of turnip has been attempted with good success. Part of the annexed lands of Abbotrule is well adapted to turnip-husbandry. Grounds covered with broom, heath, from this beneficial practice, produces abundant

bundant crops of clover and rye-grass. Valued rent is 6387 l. 5 s. Scots; real rent may be stated at 3500 l. Sterling\*.

*Proprietors, Tenants, &c.*—There are 4 proprietors, 2 constantly reside. There are 22 greater, and 19 smaller tenants; 56 shepherds, 4 masons, 7 wrights, 2 blacksmiths, 5 tailors, weavers.

*Fuel.*—The fuel made use of is of various kinds. Peat, from different mosses, constituted formerly the principal fuel, and turf from the moors; the whole summer was spent in collecting fuel. Peat and turf are now used in small quantities. Coal at 4 d. the load, chiefly from Ryechester in Northumberland. A double cart carries 6 loads: the distance is about 15 miles. The carriage costs 8 s. besides the purchase-money.

*Quarries.*—There are many quarries of free-stone, and inexhaustible quarries of lime-stone, in the higher parts of the parish. There is also an excellent quarry of white hard stone, which is used for chimney-grates, as it endures the greatest heats, and will last for many years.

*Antiquities.*—Many tumuli, commonly called cairns, are to be seen in different parts of the parish. Stones have been led away

\* *Scarcity 1782 and 1783.*—The crop was very deficient, and the poor were reduced to great distress. Every method was taken by the attention of the heirs, to increase the poor's funds. This could only reach to such as were upon the roll, and found inadequate to their necessities. Many labourers suffered the utmost hardships; and what added to the general calamity, the frosted oats and barley gave a noxious quality to the meal. In these deplorable circumstances, Lord Douglas humanely directed his agent in the country to buy good wholesome food. The bounty was continued, both to the poor upon the list, and all indigent householders in the parish.

away to the turnpike roads. In the centre of the heap, square stones were placed, so as to form a kind of chest, and human bones were discovered. There is also one place, where it is said a chapel stood before the Reformation, 3 miles from the old church, but almost no vestige of its walls now appears. There are ruins of many old towers, in most parts of the parish. None of them appear to have been large. In some places they stand nearly entire. At the village of Chesters, and many other places, on the adjacent heights, there are likewise to be seen the ruins of strong fortifications or camps. The form is round, and, in general, quite distinct. None of the camps are large, may comprehend above an acre of ground, and are surrounded with a double wall of earth. There is no appearance of any stone-work about them, except in the middle, which seems paved with freestone. Each camp is apparently stationed within view of Southdean-law, as tradition says, a place of observation, on which fires were kindled at the approach of an enemy.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—This parish long laboured under the greatest oppression; the numerous droves of black cattle and sheep passing into England, infested and overspread the best pasture ground. Every returning season opened a new scene of dispute, teasing, anxiety and distress to the tenant. Many regulations were framed. Boundaries fixed. Lawless trespass maintained its usual inroads. It does great honour to the gentlemen in this part of the country, that they have, with spirited and determined exertion, designed and extended roads of public advantage, and of parochial utility. The road from Newcastle at the Carter-toll, branches into this parish in two directions: the one line leads to Jedburgh, and the other to Hawick, which at once restores the farmer to the free and peaceable possession of his lands, gives an easy access

cess to coal and lime at Ryecester, and perpetuates a communication with the neighbouring kingdom, without molestation or injury. The principal disadvantage is want of shelter, defence from the scorching sun in summer, and protection in winter from the piercing winds, frequent and violent rains and destroying blasts of snow. The arable land in this parish under the most cautious and prudent management, speedily returns to its native barren soil. From the same cause, the best breed of sheep may degenerate into the most unprofitable animal; whilst growing shelter furnishes certain experience and establishes the means of recovering high and exposed situations into a sound and healthy state, and of improving and preserving the quality of the flock.

NUM

## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF KEIR.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF PEN-  
PONT.)*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES WALLACE.**Extent, Soil and Rivers.*

THIS parish is about 8 miles long from E. to W. The breadth is unequal; about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, or near 3 on an average. The soil is, in general, light, dry, and fertile, with a sandy, gravelly bottom, and produces heavy crops of grain and grass, in wet showery seasons, but is greatly parched, and far less productive in hot dry seasons. There is some holm land on the banks of the Nith and Scarr, consisting of a deep rich loam, and produces fine crops in any season. The land that lies highest and nearest the hilly ground, is, in general, excepting the holms, the deepest and strongest, but so full of stones, as to render the cultivation of it difficult and expensive. More than a third part of the parish consists of hilly ground, or sheep-walks, mostly covered with short heath, interspersed

interspersed with bent, and other kinds of grass, neither very coarse nor very fine, but generally allowed to be very good sheep-pasture. There are no rivers in the parish, except those already mentioned, which run along the N. and S. E. side of it. Into these, several little rivulets, or, as they are commonly called, burns, from the high or hilly grounds, empty themselves.

*Woods and Plantations.*—There is a considerable extent of natural wood in different parts of the parish, consisting chiefly of oak and ash, with some birch and alder. In the woods upon the estate of Barjarg, is an oak tree remarkable for its great size and age. At the root, it is about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet in circumference, and it loses very little of its thickness at the height of 30 feet. Its age cannot now be ascertained, but it must certainly be several hundred years old. The highest branches seem now to be beginning to decay. There are also some plantations, consisting mostly of fir. These plantations, together with the natural woods, add much to the beauty of the place, and in stormy weather afford shelter to the cattle grazing in them, and in the adjoining fields.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate is rather moist and damp, owing to the continued ridge of hills, on the S. side of the parish, intercepting and breaking the clouds into rain, which is poured down on the sides of the hills, and those places that are near them, much more frequently, and more plentifully, than on the plain and level grounds at a greater distance from them. To this cause, perhaps, are to be ascribed the slow nervous fevers, rheumatisms, and asthmatic disorders, which seem to be more prevalent here, than any other diseases.

*Proprietors, Agriculture, &c.*—There are 5 proprietors,

one of whom resides constantly, two occasionally, and two never. The farmers, in general, when they break up a field, take two or three white crops from it, after that a green crop, or a summer fallow, which is succeeded by a crop of barley, along with which they sow grass-seeds, and lay out the field, cutting the grass two years, and pasturing it two or three more, before it is broken up again. They, for most part, use the little close jointed Scots plough, commonly drawn by two horses, and sometimes by three, where the land is stiff, and has never been well cultivated, and properly dressed before. Lime is much used here as a manure, and is found to answer very well. Many of the farmers spread it upon the surface 8 or 10 months before they plough their field. Others again plough their field, and give it a flight harrowing, before they spread the lime upon it, after which they sow their oats, and then harrow it completely. This method seems to answer better, as, by these means the lime is sooner mixed and incorporated with the soil. The quantity of lime must be adapted to the nature of the land on which it is laid. Deep, strong, stiff land requires more than a shallow, loose, open foil does. The quantity used for one acre is from 50 to 80 measures of shells, the measure containing two Manchester bushels. One liming is found to serve very well for two courses of crops, and sometimes three, before the liming is repeated. And when it is repeated, half the quantity that was laid on the field at first, or little more, is found to be sufficient. It is observed, however, that at the end of every course of crops, the field is renewed with dung, along with a green crop, or by a summer fallow \*.

## K 2

## There

\* *Seed Time and Harvest.* Wheat is sown from the beginning of October to the end of November. Oats, pease, and flax, from the middle of March to the 20th of April. Barley and potatoes from the 20th of April to the middle of May. Turnip from the middle of June to the 10th of July. Harvest, in ordinary

There is but little wheat raised in the parish, as the soil, in general, is found to be too light, for producing an advantageous crop of it, not more than 15 or 20 acres yearly, worth from 7 l. to 8 l. Sterling the acre. Barley is raised in much greater abundance, from 100 to 120 acres yearly, worth, at an average, about 4 l. 10 s. the acre. Between 400 and 500 acres of oats are sown annually, worth, at an average, about 3 l. 10 s. the acre. There also are large fields of potatoes, about 70 or 80 acres yearly, worth from 8 l. to 10 l. the acre. 70 or 80 acres of pease are raised annually, worth from 3 l. to 4 l. the acre. The farmers in the parish have hitherto sown no more flax than is necessary for the use of their own families. The real rent is about 1509 l., reckoning 10 l. per cent, on the grassums given for some farms, and adding that to the yearly rent of them \*.

*Towns, Villages, Inns, and Ale-Houses.*—There are neither towns nor villages in the parish, a few houses near the church hardly deserving the name of a village. Nor are there any inns. There are 2 or 3 ale-houses, or, as they should more properly be called whisky-houses, for whisky is the principal article they deal in, and they have a great demand for it. The pernicious practice of drinking whisky has made a very rapid

diminution in the number of inhabitants, which, in former seasons, begins about the 20th of August, and ends about the beginning of October, but for some years past has been considerably later.

\* *Wages of Servants and Labourers, &c.*—The wages of men labourers are 8 d. a-day with victuals, and 1 s. 2 d. without victuals. The wages of women for working at peats, hay-making, and other farm work, is 5 d. with their diet, and 9 d. and 10 d. without it. In harvest, both men and women are commonly 8 d. a-day, with victuals, and 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. when they furnish their own provisions. The day's wages of a master mason, carpenter, and slater, are 2 s.; of a tailor, 8 d. with victuals. The average wages of farming men servants are 8 l. yearly with bed and board; and of women 3 l. 10 s. The wages of domestic servants are much the same with those of farm servants.

rapid progress in this corner of the country within a few years last past. It is purchased at a very low price, and a small quantity of it is sufficient, not only to intoxicate, but even to make a man mad. Its pernicious effects upon the morals, the industry, and the constitutions of those who are addicted to it, must be visible to every sober observer.

*Roads.*—The principal road in the parish is in very indifferent repair. A part of it is still in its natural state, and those parts of it, that have been repaired, were done in a very superficial manner. The conversion of the statute-labour, amounts to little more than 12 l. a-year, which might keep our roads in repair, if they were once sufficiently made; but will by no means both make, and keep them in proper order. The badness of our roads is a great bar to improvements of every kind.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was repaired about 30 years ago, but has never been properly seated, and the number of inhabitants having increased considerably of late years, it is rather too small for their accommodation. The manse and offices were all new built in the year 1778, and are in very good repair. His Grace the Duke of Queensberry is patron of the parish. The stipend is 700 l. Scots money, and 3 chalders of victual, two-thirds of which are meal, and one-third bear; which, with the manse, and glebe of about 8 acres, may be reckoned worth about 90 l. yearly.—The parish school is inconveniently situated, being about 2 miles too near the upper or west end of the parish, by which the lower or east end is in a great measure deprived of the benefit of it. The number of scholars, in the winter season, is between 30 and 40, during the rest of the year they are not so numerous, many of them being employed in herding,

ing, or any other occupations suited to their years and strength. The school salary is 100 l. Scots, with a free house. The school fees are very trifling: for teaching English 1 s. 3 d. the quarter; writing and arithmetic 1 s. 6 d. No Latin has been taught here for many years.—The poor who regularly receive alms from the kirk-session, are 6. They are supplied from the collections in the church on Sundays, and the interest of a small sum appropriated to their use, amounting in all to about 12 l. a-year. They are all maintained in their own houses. They earn about a half or two-thirds of their own maintenance; and none of them beg from door to door. The parish, however, is much infested with beggars who do not belong to, nor reside in it.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 495. The population of the parish has increased considerably of late years. In the year 1778, the number of souls did not exceed 300, whereas they are now 520. This increase is chiefly to be ascribed to two causes; the division of large farms into smaller ones, and a lime work which was begun a few years ago, of which we shall take more particular notice afterward. Of the inhabitants of the parish, 12 are Antiburgher Seceders; 12 are Cameronians; all the rest are of the Established Church. There are 3 blacksmiths, 4 carpenters, 2 masons, 8 weavers, and 4 tailors. All the other inhabitants of the parish are farmers, and their cottagers, who live in detached houses, there being, as was before observed, neither towns nor villages in it.

*Number of Horses, Black Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—There are 820 horses, mostly of the Scots breed, strong made, and very hardy. There are a few of the breed of Ireland, which generally

tully improve here, and are found to answer every purpose of the farmer. Their value, at an average, may be about 14*l.* Sterling, each. There are about 280 milch cows, with their calves, or followers as they are called, usually kept in the parish; worth, at an average, about 6*l.* Sterling each. The number of sheep in the district does not exceed 1880; they are the common Scots kind, white on the body, and black on the face and legs; they are very hardy, but their wool is strong and rather coarse. No swine are bred in the district. Most of the farmers buy a pig or two annually, which they feed for the use of their own families.

*Fuel, &c.*—The greater part of the parish is but indifferently provided with fuel, for though there is some moss about the middle of the parish, it is at a considerable distance from the extremities of it, and consequently to the inhabitants of these parts, very expensive. The greater part of the fuel used here, is coal from Sanquhar, which is likewise very expensive, being carried about 14 miles. Nor is this all: of late years it has been of a very bad quality; and the demand for it is so great, that the carters are often detained 24, and sometimes 48 hours, before they can be served. And it cannot but be supposed that there must be a great demand for coal at Sanquhar, when it is considered that there is no other coal-work in Nithsdale, Annandale, the shire and stewartry of Galloway. The lower parts of Annandale, and of Nithsdale, and all along the sea-coast of Galloway, would be supplied with coal from England, at a moderate and easy rate, were it not for the high duty, amounting also to a prohibition, laid upon them. Were this duty abolished, the demand at Sanquhar would be greatly lessened, and consequently this part of the country much better supplied.

About

About 6 years ago, a lime rock was discovered in the estate of Barjarg, and from that time has been carried off with considerable success. The rock seems to be inexhaustible, but has about 14 feet deep of earth above it; the removing of which is attended with no small expense. Between 30 and 40 hands are constantly employed for 7 or 8 months in the year, when they continue to burn lime; but not so many during the rest of the year. Between 20,000 and 30,000 measures, in shells, have been sold annually; the measure, a before observed, containing 2 Winchester bushels. It is sold at 9d. the measure, and as the lime is of an excellent quality, it is not improbable that the demand for it will increase.

*Character of the People, &c.*—The people, in general, are sober and industrious, though it must be confessed, that, since the pernicious practice of drinking whisky became so prevalent, there are too many exceptions. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the necessaries, and even the comforts and conveniences of life, and are, generally, as contented with their situation, as most people. Their condition, however, might be meliorated, were our roads put into proper repair the duty on the English coal abolished, the inhabitants better supplied with coal from Sanquhar, and the heavy mulfures, which they are bound to pay to the mills to which they are thirled, removed. More than one-half of the parish pays the eleventh peck as mulfure, besides paying the miller for working or grinding their grain. This is certainly a very great discouragement to improvements in agriculture.

NUMBER VIII.

P A R I S H o f B A R R .

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF AYR.).

*By the Rev. Mr. STEPHEN YOUNG.*

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*Patron, Stipend, &c.*

BARR was erected into a parish in the year 1653, formerly annexed to the parishes of Girvan and Dailly. The parish seems to have taken its name from a small estate called Barr, upon which the kirk stands. The Crown is patron. The stipend is 100 l. a-year, besides glebe and manse.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then was 858. Of inhabitants at present there are 750, of whom 115 are under 8 years of age; males 386, females 364. For 20 years prior to 1791, there appears from the parish records, males born in the parish 195, females 155; in all 350; marriages in the above time 129; and burials 286. For 20 years prior to 1791, upon an average, there ap-

pears to have been annually males born in the parish 5 short of 10; females 5 short of 8; total 10 short of 18; of marriages 7 short of 7 annually; and of burials 6 short of 15 annually. The parish seems to have contained more inhabitants in former times than at present. In the year 1770, there were born in the parish, males 15, females 12, total 27. In the year 1790, males 7, females 4, total 11. In the year 1791, males 9, females 6, total 15. Population in this parish has decreased much for these 30 years; and the reason is obvious. Proprietors of lands of late years have cast two or more of their farms into the hands of one tenant; by which means, in place of a family with cottagers and servants upon almost every farm, there are some farms in which there is not one inhabitant, and many where a shepherd man servant and his family alone occupy the farm, which is no more than is absolutely necessary to herd the grounds. Of mechanics, there are 2 millers, 4 blacksmiths, 12 weavers, 6 masons, 3 carpenters, 2 shoemakers, 5 tailors, 5 inkeepers. Of farmers 46; there are many more farms in the parish; some individual farmers hold some 2, others 3, 4, or 5 farms. There is one seceder.

*Antiquities.*—There is, about a mile S. W. of the parish church, the remains of an old Popish chapel, standing on an eminence, by a small river called Stencher. There are no traditional accounts worthy of communicating concerning this chapel: it is called *Kirk Dominae*, the Kirk of our Lady, supposed to be dedicated in honour of the Virgin Mary. When it was built, is uncertain; but it had been in some repair in the year 1653, as the roof was then taken down, and put upon the parish church. Though there is no village at this chapel, but one small farm-house only, yet there is a great annual fair held here upon the last Saturday of May, called *Kirk Dominae Fair*.

*Mineral Spring and Minerals.*—This parish being a hilly country, abounds with springs of fine water, many of them mineral. But there is one called Shalloch-well, which has deservedly the pre-eminence. The virtues of this water are well known in this country; it is a pretty strong chalybeate, and partakes of the sulphur also to no inconsiderable degree. About 30 years ago, people of the first rank and fashion in Carrick and the neighbourhood, attended this well; but this is not the case at present; every season, however, produces some company, and the waters have been rarely known to fail in giving relief to persons afflicted with stomachic or scorbutic disorders. The reason why this water is in a great measure deserted, is the want of proper accommodation at the well. There is freestone in the parish, and abundance of limestone. No coal has yet been found in it; and through want of a road to the coal-pit, on the water of Girvan, the inhabitants are necessitated to depend principally upon turf and peat for fuel. It is supposed that this, like many high countries, possesses valuable minerals; for certain, there is lead in it; but the trial, properly speaking, has never been made (though once attempted) to find out whether it would be to the advantage of the proprietor to follow after this valuable article.

*Climate.*—The climate is not by any means unsavourable to health. The parish is extensive; the inhabitants sparse, and families living at a distance from each other, contribute much to the salubrity of the place. There is a village at the parish church, but it does not contain above 86 inhabitants, old and young. An eminent surgeon in this neighbourhood, now some years dead, who practised in this country near 50 years, was in use to observe, 'that in all that time he never knew an epidemical distemper in this parish. There have been many instances of longevity in the parish, of people living considerably

above 80 years. There is a poor old woman in the village, who must, from her own account, be above 90; she remembers well the young men in this place learning the use of arms in the year 1715, and was reaping on a corn-ridge, a big lass about 18 years of age, when the above men passed by to join the loyalists; she is very healthy, and able to walk about with her staff. Consumptions prevail most in this place.

*Agriculture.*—This parish is partly arable, but consists principally of pasture-grounds. As to improvements of any sort, it may be said to be in its natural state. Though there is plenty of lime in the parish, yet the want of roads renders it difficult to procure coals, in order to prepare lime-stone for the purpose of improving the grounds; but if a free communication was opened between the coal-works upon the water of Girvan and this place, by making a good road, which is in extent about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles only; improvements might find their way to this part of the country also, the nature of the grounds in this parish is such, that they produce but very poor scanty crops, without lime or marl; therefore the farmers here plough but very little; but those who have made any attempts by means of the lime, have had considerable returns.

*Black Cattle.*—In this parish the farmer's attention has been principally directed to the breed of black cattle, and has succeeded. In this particular, they have attained to great perfection. Carrick produces, perhaps, as handsome black cattle as any part of Scotland; but not the *duce* only, but the *utile* is to be taken into consideration. It is a fact founded upon repeated experiment, that the handsome Carrick cattle are much easier fed, and at much less expense, than the cross made hook-boned cattle of like size; that pasture which can bring the

be coarse made cattle to a keeping condition only, will make Carrick black cattle thorough fat ; and that pasture which will bring the latter into a middling condition only, will scarce be able to keep the former in life. Cattle reared in this country, and sold at the age of 3, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years (from the moors) will bring from 4 l. 10 s. to 5 l. 5 s. each ; and if put upon low lying enclosed pasture for an year, they will be ready for the English market, and bring from 6 l. 10 s. to 8 l. each. This parish is supposed to hold from 1500 to 2000 black cattle.

*Cheviot Sheep, &c.*—It would be well for the farmers here, could as much be said for their sheep stock ; but this cannot be expected, so long as so many black cattle are reared in the parish. They not only lessen the quantity of food, being permitted to pasture among the sheep, but poach the surface with their feet, and even the grass which springs where the cattle dung, is unwholesome for sheep. Sheep in this parish are inferior in point of strength to the sheep in Crawfordmoor, but make better fat. Wedders 3 and 4 years old from the common hill pasture here, when come to the best state of flesh the grounds bring them, between Michaelmas and Martinmas, will weigh from 10 to 14 pound English the quarter, and produce tallow from 9 to 12 pounds English, and sell at from 10l. to 13l. the score. The pasture ground of this parish is for most part dry ; its hills consist partly of heath, but mostly what is called white ground, and, as one might judge, not unfavourable to the improvement of wool, by means of the Cheviot breed. The writer of these remarks is the rather inclined to think so from the following experiment, now making in this parish : Two score of ewe hogs, and a ram of the Cheviot breed, were put upon a farm called Tarrasessock, June 1792, the property of the Earl of Cassillis, possessed by Mr. M'Hutchson of Changue. This farm is one of the highest in the

the parish, and consequently subject to storm. The hogs have plenty of coarse grass, and such attention paid to them as ought to be paid to stranger, or what is called hefting sheep. But, considering the wetness of the harvest, the stormy winter and spring, the hogs and stranger hogs, too brought to a high cold farm; from all this it might have been expected, that most, if not all of this Cheviot breed, would have died during the course of the winter. But, what is astonishing, upon the 27th March 1793, two days since, they were all alive, and likely to do well, which is by no means the case with the natives either upon that farm, or those of the neighbourhood. This has been a very sickly season, and, by all accounts, every where upon the S. and W. of Scotland, the fall of sheep has been considerable, through poverty and disease.

The wool of this parish is greatly superior to that at Crawfordmoor, but inferior to the small white faced sheep in Penningham or Mochrum in Galloway, or that of the sheep on the shore of Dunnure in this county. Wool in this parish sells from 4 l. 10 s. to 6 l. the pack; from 7 s. 6 d. to 10 s. the stone; and as it takes 10 fleeces for most part to the stone, each fleece sold in wholesale, brings from 9 d. to 1 s. the fleece. Ayrshire stone is 24 lib. English. This parish is supposed to keep 25,000 sheep.

It must be observed in favour of the Cheviot breed, (but by no means to exaggerate in favour even of them); those of the Cheviot breed in this parish, though hogs (and every storemaster knows that hog wool is by far the coarsest of the wool) last season produced wool greatly superior in quality and quantity to the wool of this parish. The wool of the natives, or, what may be called the short sheep of the farm of Tarrafessock, where the hogs of the Cheviot breed, or long sheep, pasture, and of the farms in the neighbourhood, sells at

7 s. 6 d.

7s. 6 d. the stone, 9 d. the fleece, taking 10 fleeces to the stone. 50 score of sheep at this rate will bring in wool 37 l. 10 s.; but the wool of the long sheep, or Cheviot breed in the parish, gave last season 15 s. the stone,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fleeces to the stone, 2 s. the fleece; 50 score of which, at this rate, would bring 100 l. Fine wool in the lower parts of Galloway brings from 12 s. to 14 s. the stone. Suppose it to bring 15 s. the stone, there is still this consideration in favour of the Cheviot breed. The Galloway fine wool will take 14, 15, or even 16 fleeces to the stone; suppose, in general, 15 fleeces, the Cheviot breed in this parish, though of the small kind, take  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fleeces only to the stone. It therefore follows, that when 30 Galloway sheep bring 1 l. 10 s. for two stone of wool, 15 fleeces, and 15 s. the stone, the Cheviot breed, in number 30, will bring 3 l., four stone of wool taking  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fleeces, and giving 15 s. each stone.

It is asserted that the Cheviot breed will require much better feeding, consequently more grass than the natives of this country. This observation may be well founded; but the question is, how far, and whether, upon this supposition, the Cheviot breed of sheep called the long sheep, may not be the most advantageous stock still?

Suppose a farm holding 50 score, or 1000 short sheep, the natives of the country, should not be able to keep above 40 score, or 800 of the long sheep, 50 score of short sheep will bring 37 l. 10 s., at the rate of 7 s. 6 d. the stone, 9 d. each fleece, taking 10 fleeces to the stone; 40 score of long sheep, taking  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fleeces to the stone, giving 15 s. the stone, will bring 80 l. Further, if 40 score of long, eat the grass of 50 score of short sheep, it may be presumed that the long sheep is a fifth part stronger in the bone, and, if brought to a like state of fat with the short, will, in their carcase, weigh a fifth part more, give a fifth part more tallow, consequently a fifth part more money. Therefore the produce of 40 score

of

of long sheep, in point of carcase, should bring as much money as that of 50 score of short sheep.

It may be observed that the skins of sheep slaughtered or after Michaelmas, are of considerable value, and principally from the wool upon them. But it has been already shown that the wool of long sheep is 1 s. 3 d. the fleece preferable to the generality of the wool of this place. Suppose, then 40 score of long sheep cast off annually for sale, fat wethers and ewes, and parking ewes 10 score, 1 s. 3 d. each skin, 12 l. 10 s.; call it 1 s. each skin preferable to those of the short sheep, 10 score of skins, at this rate, will bring 10 l., which together with the 80 l. formerly mentioned as the price of the wool shorn from off the long sheep, makes, in whole, 90 l. Therefore a farm holding 50 score short sheep, and able to keep 40 score long, will advance the wool by means of the Cheviot breed, from 37 l. 10 s. to 90 l.; and the foregoing observations being just, will, in other respects, be equally advantageous. Suppose such a farm brings of gross produce from 50 score of short sheep 150 l. annually, the same farm, by means of the Cheviot breed, keeping 40 score, will, of gross produce, bring 200 l.

The writer of the above remarks has seen and examined the state in which the long sheep in this parish are. He had an opportunity of seeing the wool, also the produce of the Cheviot hogs last season, he has certain information of the price that wool brought; and he believes, both from the general character of the Galloway fine wool, and from information, that he has not undervalued it; that it is not higher, if so high as the price stated\*.

I shall

\* If the above profit is so great, calculating the wool at 15 s. the stone, how much more would it not be, if the wool had fetched its real value of 20 s. the stone? And it is hoped that the Cheviot breed will soon be improved, so as to produce wool worth even 30 s. the stone.

I shall only add as a further proof of the experiment of the Cheviot breed of sheep taking place in this parish, and of their doing well, the farmer, whose property they are, is resolved to bring upon the same farm, this ensuing season, some scores more; and it is hoped others will see it their interest to follow the example, to purchase into their respective farms a number of the Cheviot breed, less or more, as is most answerable. Perhaps it might not be advisable to change the whole flock of the short sheep at once; but by degrees, in this way, there can be no risk. Even bringing in rams of the Cheviot breed, and crossing them with the ewes of the short sheep, would greatly improve the wool of the parish.

## N U M B E R I X.

## P A R I S H O F D A L R Y.

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN FULLARTON.*

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*Name, Extent, Situation, and Soil.*

DALRY is said to signify " King's Valley." It gives a title to the Earl of Glasgow. It is about 9 English miles from N. to S., and nearly the same distance from E. to W. The village of Dalry, where the parish church stands, is situated on the west side of the parish, and is about a quarter of a mile distant from the parish of Kilwinning; in that direction, the 2 parishes being divided by a small water. Perhaps some regard to waters was paid in the first division of parishes, and when bridges were not so common as now they are. From this situation of the village and parish church, many of the inhabitants of the parish are obliged to travel to kirk and market from considerable distances. The village of Dalry is much admired by strangers for its situation. It is

is situated on a rising ground, with a commanding prospect to the S. and an extensive view to the N. E. It is almost surrounded by waters, and these run in their different directions, so near the village, that when extraordinary rains fall, and waters swell, the village, when viewed at a distance, puts on the appearance of an island; but from its elevated situation, is never, at any time in danger, even from the greatest floods\*. The soil varies much, according to the different situations of the grounds. All the flat grounds lying along the water of Garnock, are in general a deep loamy soil, with a dry bottom, and from their being often overflowed with water, they are evidently enriched by the slime and mud left upon them; and the farmer has often experienced good crops from this very circumstance alone. Trench ploughing, or hand trenching of such ground, would assuredly turn out to advantage, as the soil below seems equally good, and with a small help of dung or lime, would soon become better than the upper soil, that has been long cultivated. But a

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\* Waters.—There are 3 waters that run near the village, Gaaff, Rye, and Garnock. All these take their rise from the high moor lands, at several miles distance from the village, consequently they are soon filled, run with great rapidity, and are soon emptied again. The 2 first, empty themselves into Garnock, near the village. And Garnock empties itself into the sea at the bar of Irvine. From the rapidity of these different waters, and when much swelled, great mischief is often done to the flat grounds near the village, through which they run; so that many fields of rich grain have been, in harvest, either laid flat on the ground, covered with wreck, or entirely swept away when cut down. In harvest 1791, more than 20 acres were thus destroyed and lost. Hereby, the value of such lands, however rich, is greatly lessened, as farmers cannot call their crops their own, till they are secured in their barns. There are plenty of trouts in the above waters, generally of a small size, and vary in colour, according to the waters they are caught in. Some sea-trouts and salmon are caught in Garnock; but not in such quantities, as to bring much profit to the proprietor of the water, though the price of late years has advanced from 1½d. to 3d. the English lib.

trial of this has not been made. But the greatest quantity of ground in the parish, is of a very different quality, much inclined to clay of different colours, and of a tilly, wet bottom. There is also a good deal of moss-ground, not only in the hilly part of the parish, but also in the lower parts of it. Some of which, has of late, by a sensible process, been brought from its natural state, to bear very good crops, both of oats and grass, and this, by digging it with a spade in winter, and exposing it to the frost, ridging it up, and allowing proper drains and furrows, throwing some quick lime upon it, and harrowing it in with the seed; The digging repeated 2, sometimes 3 years, then sowing grass-seeds upon it, either with a view to eat or to feed, and from its not being formerly worth 2 d., or indeed any thing, the acre, by this process, it has become equal in value, to most of the grounds that lie around it. The expense of digging, ridging, and draining, does not exceed 2 l. the acre the first year, and 1 l. 6 s. the two following. The proprietors of such grounds, are so fully sensible of the advantages of such a process, that in a few years it is expected, that a great part of them will be made fit to bear very good crops both of oats and grass.

*Division and Rents.*—Within these 40 years past, the greatest part, if not almost the whole of the parish, has been enclosed. When enclosing first began, it was effected with some difficulty, as the adjoining heritors or tenants, were not only unwilling to bear half of the expense, but could not think of being deprived of a liberty they had long been accustomed to take, of pasturing their cattle upon their neighbour's ground, which was often of more advantage to their cattle, than feeding upon their own. But when they got the better of these little selfish views, which they soon did, a spirit of enclosing took place, as they evidently perceived, that enclosing, not only

only preferred every man's property entire, but was useful to the ground itself, by keeping it from being potched in winter and spring ; the enclosures keeping the ground warmer, and affording shelter to their cattle, both in the heat of summer, and from the cold in winter. Sensible of these, and other advantages, englofing went rapidly on, either at the expense of the proprietor, or of his tenants. And so eager have tenants been, for a long while past, about it, that they have not only their grounds in general enclosed, but properly subdivided, and scruple not to pay the interest of the money, the proprietor of the lands lays out in such enclosings, even to 5, and sometimes to 7½ per cent., according to the different fencings made. In the low part of the parish, the enclosures are mostly ditches of different wideness, and rows of thorns sometimes mixed with some ash or beeches, which, when they thrive, give good shelter to the ground. The moor farms of the parish, are all enclosed with stone fences of different heights. The farms, in general, are not large in the low part of the parish. They seldom exceed 60l. in rent, and many let at 20l. 10l., and some even lower. The moor farms being more extensive, let from 100l. to 200l., and even more. The grounds in the low part of the parish, and that lie along the waters, are never rented below 1l.; and some such, are also rented at 1l. 10s. the acre, and sometimes above that. The grounds adjoining to these, and of a different quality, are, in general, rented from 12s. to 15s. the acre. The moor farms where there is tolerable good grass, and no heath, about 7s. 6d. the acre. The heath pasture is not generally let by the acre, but by the lump. The valued rent of the parish is 6538l. 14s. 6d.; the real rent about 6350l. Sterling. The number of ~~holders~~ <sup>holders</sup> may be about 90. Only one considerable landholder ~~lives~~, and who possesses, I suppose, not much less than one-third

third of the parish. There are also some others who possess pretty good estates; of whom, some reside.

*Agriculture, &c.—*The method of farming is a good deal improved within these 20 years. Before that period, farmers thought they could not plough enough, even though they had but too frequently, very poor returns for their work and expense. But they have seen their mistake. And every intelligent farmer now among us, seldom thinks of opening his ground, till it has rested 4, and sometimes 6 years, and even then, to enrich it with dung or lime. Tenants, in general, are bound, and they look on it as no hardship, to have no more than a third of their ground in tillage. Their outfield land, which, in general, is well limed (to the extent of 160 bolls an acre, and sometimes more, each boll containing 5 Winchester bushels) commonly produces 2 crops of oats, with a crop of rye-grass succeeding, and is afterward turned to pasture. The infield land or crofting, is that on which they lay most of the dung they make from their own cattle (for dung is not to be bought) and raise 3 crops from it, bear, oats, and beans, and then return to dunging again. As bear is a very uncertain crop, both by reason of the bulk of the land being inclined to clay, and a wet bottom, and also to the great quantity of rain that generally falls, about the end of summer, and the beginning of harvest, this being the case, many farmers have adopted another method, and, I believe, much to their advantage, viz. of laying their dung upon their outfield or poorest ground, allowing 2 acres about the same quantity of dung, they would have given to 1 acre of bear, and taking 2 crops of oats, and sometimes 1 of rye-grass hay; and in this way, their future grazing crops on such land, are much improved, and the whole farm in process of time, is brought into a state of improvement. And, as many are fall-

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ing in with this method, there is now very little bear raised for the market, but only a small quantity for family use. Indeed, oats is the crop most to be depended on by the farmer, as being a more hardy grain than bear, a more certain crop, and always commanding a ready market. Pease are seldom sown. Though luxuriant crops of them can be raised, yet the rains that generally fall about the autumnal equinox, lays them flat with the ground, to the loss of both grain and fodder. Beans are sown by many farmers, only in small quantities. From the grounds along the water, large crops are got. Wheat is not sown by the common farmers, though some gentlemen in the parish sow it in small quantities for family use, and have returns from 30 to 40 Winchester bushels the acre. It is sown after a fallow or potatoe crop, and the seed generally ploughed down with a shallow furrow, and lightly harrowed. This method is preferred, as hereby the seed being deeper buried, winter or spring frosts, are not so ready to throw out the plants; and it is also thought, that if the crop is luxuriant, by having a deep hold of the ground, it is not so apt to lodge. Clover-seeds are but seldom sown. A few who sow them, after proper preparation, have found great profit from them, both in enriching their hay crops, and adding greatly to the value of pasture-grass. It can scarcely be told, to what extent, an acre of good red clover will go, in feeding cows and horses in the house, when 2 or 3 crops are taken from it. There is surely no such cheap way of feeding horses in summer, and having plenty of milk from cows, as by allowing them red clover in abundance, not to mention the dung that is hereby saved. But, till cleansing the ground from weeds by fallowing, be more frequent than it is, little advantage will be gained by sowing of clover-seeds. Fallowing is not practised in this parish by common farmers, but by a few gentlemen it is going on, and whether it

it will influence others to follow their example, time will show. If they were to adopt it, certainly their grounds would be much better prepared for succeeding crops. Flax is sown chiefly for family use, and but seldom for market. Turnip-farming was only introduced into the parish last year. The gentleman who introduced it, has succeeded, himself, in having a large crop, which probably will induce others to follow his example. Potatoes is a crop universally raised by every farmer, but seldom to any further extent, than barely for the scanty use of his own family. But I have long thought, that every farmer might profitably consume, the double or triple of the potatoes, he commonly raises. If he were to cultivate but one acre yearly, what a large provision does he lay in for the support of man and beast? One acre, if properly cultivated, will, on an average, yield 40 bolls, at 8 Winchester bushels the boll, each bushel heaped. And even more bolls will be got, if the ground is good on which they are planted, and proper dunging and cultivation given. I have known a large family, not under 15, plentifully supplied for 6 months in the year, with a large quantity given every day to 2 or 3 horses instead of corn in the winter months, and also to cows and poultry, and after all, selling 5 l. worth of them that remained, and all from the produce of 1 acre. No such valuable crop then can be raised, and when freely given, will fatten cows, horses, hogs, and poultry, to any degree you desire. An acre of potatoes of 40 bolls, at the low price of 1 s. the bushel, is 16 l. It were to be wished, therefore, that farmers were more attentive to their interest, and plant more potatoes than they commonly do\*. The implements of husbandry

\* The common method of planting this root, is ploughing and harrowing the ground once, and doing the rest of the work with the spade; but this method is both slow and expensive. A better method is adopted by others; after giving the

bandy for carrying on the common method of farming, are but few: The old Scotch plough, drawn with 4 horses; a brake harrow drawn by 2; and common harrows for each horse. A few have rollers for breaking of clods and smoothing the ground. Some gentlemen in the parish who practise fallowing and turnip-farming, have English, and East Country ploughs of a light construction, drawn by 2 horses, and 1 man holds and drives the plough. But till the ground undergo a different cultivation from what it has yet done, and be cleared of stones, with which it abounds, the old Scotch plough must be better adapted to the present mode of cultivation, than the English plough can be. As the grain that is raised in the parish is, in general, consumed in it, and few farmers have much to want after maintaining their own families, this cannot be called a corn country, when so little of their grain is brought to market. The parish, in general, is better adapted for grafts than for corn. What a pity then is it, that better methods were not fallen on to improve the grafts? This will not be done, till the ground be properly prepared by fallowing, cleansed well from its old

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roots,

the ground, at least, 3 different ploughings and harrowings, or till properly pulverized, furrows are made with 2 horses at the distance of 3 feet, dung is put into the furrows, the potatoes are laid, then the furrow is filled up with the plough, by going down one side and coming up the other, and thereby giving such a depth of covering as you choose. An acre of potatoes can be covered in this way, with a single horse and a small plough, in 6 or 7 hours. By the cultivation the ground receives before planting, and 2 or 3 more ploughings after the plants appear, hereby it receives all the benefit that can result from a fallow, with a rich crop to the bargain, and the ground in order for bearing some clean and weighty crops. I know a field of about 10 acres, that after this cultivation, has been cropped for above 20 years, and the crops, in general, rich and luxuriant. The dung of the farm is mostly employed on the potatoe crop, and the rotation of crops that follow, are, 1. wheat, 2. beans, 3. barley, and if a little dung can be spared, the better; 4. oats, and then return to potatoes again. A proper rotation of crops, is one way to secure success to the farmer.

roots, and proper grass-seeds thrown into it. It is by grass that the farmer at present pays his rent; all pains, therefore, should be taken to improve it. For some years past, the profits of the dairy have been great; and it may be said with certainty (if we except the moor farms) that the rents of the parish are, in general, paid from the butter and cheese made in it. The grazing farms in the parish, are employed either in fattening Highland cows, to the extent of about 300, or tearing up young ones, for the tenant himself, or for others, and at the prices, from 12*s.* to 15*s.* for 1 year old, and from 20*s.* to 24*s.* for 2 and 3 year olds, and that from the 1st of May to the 1st of November. The sheep or heath farms in the parish are but few; the stock of the whole amounting to about 1200. The sheep are of a small size, and the wool not of a fine quality; when fattened, are generally sold to the Paisley or Glasgow markets. Few sheep are kept in the low grounds since enclosing took place\*.

*Costs*

\* *Prices.*—The average price of oats is 2*s.* bear 2*s.* 6*d.* barley 3*s.* beans and peas 3*s.* 9*d.* wheat 5*s.* the Winchester bushel. Beef, at slaughter time, is 4*£* 4*d.*, and at other seasons 5*d.* and 6*d.* the lib.; veal from 5*d.* to 6*d.*; mutton from 5*d.* to 6*d.*; pork from 5*d.* to 6*d.*; lamb from 5*d.* to 6*d.* the lib. being 2*lb.* ounces. The price of a fat goose is 2*s.* 6*d.*; of a turkey from 3*s.* to 5*s.*; of a hen from 1*4d.* to 1*6d.*; of a duck 1*s.*; of a chicken 4*d.*; and eggs from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a-dozen. Butter is sold from 9*d.* to 1*0d.*; skimmed milk cheese from 3*d.* to 4*d.*; sweet milk from 5*d.* to 6*d.* the lib., according to its age, the lib. being 2*lb.* ounces. The whole of the above articles of provisions, except grain, has advanced in price, at least one-third, within these 10 years. The average wages of farm servants, when they eat in the house, are from 1*0l.* to 1*2l.* a-year; women servants from 4*l.* to 5*l.*; men labourers from 1*4d.* to 2*0d.* a-day, without provisions, and according as their work is; women for hay working 10*d.* and reaping 1*5d.* a-day, without provisions; the day's wages of a wright 2*0d.*; of a mason 2*s.*; and of a tailor 1*0d.* a-day, with his meat. All these have near doubled their wages within these 20 years.

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—The time of sowing wheat on a fallow, is from the middle of September to the 1st of October, and, on potatoe ground, from the middle

*Cows and Horses.*—The cows and horses kept by the farmers, are in proportion to the extent of their farms. To do them justice, they do not overstock their farms, as in former times. They find it their interest, to keep no more cattle than they can fully maintain, otherwise, their horses would not rise to the prices they are at, nor their cows give so much milk as they do. When once a farmer has stocked himself with cows, he seldom thinks of going to market again for more, but raises up young ones to supply the room of those that are old, and keeps up his stock by his own rearing. The breed of cows is greatly improved from what they were. At present, the farmer can sell his cows from 6l. to 10l. Sterling, and some even at higher prices. Having so much depending on a good kind, they spare no pains or cost to come at them. The young cows, now rearing in the parish, may be about 500, and milch cows about 1100. From each of which, on an average, may be got 12 stones of sweet milk

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cheese,

middle of October to the first week of November. I have known it sown later, and seen a good crop. The time of sowing oats, beans, pease, and flax, from the 12 of March to the middle of April; of bear or barley, and planting potatoes, from the middle of April to the middle of May, and turnips, from the first week of June, to the middle of it: later does not answer well in this country. The harvest generally begins about the first of September, and the crops are seldom all got in before the middle of October; and in cold and wet seasons, I have known crops in the field during the whole month of November. The farmers, in general, are healthy, sober, industrious, and thriving; and though they do not indulge themselves in high living, yet they live plentifully on wholesome fare; and when they appear in public, the dresses both of men, women, and children, show that they have plenty at home.—*Thirlage* has long and justly been complained of, as a discouragement to improvement in agriculture. About 15 years ago, a part of the parish was freed from that servitude by purchasing its thirlage; but a considerable part still remains subject to that discouraging burden.—*Draising* is much wanted in many parts of the parish, and if judiciously designed, and properly executed, would be a permanent and profitable improvement.

cheese, amounting in whole to 13,200 stones, the stone being 16 lib., and the pound 24 ounces. The cheese, in general, is of as good a quality as any made in the west country, and is mostly sold in the Greenock, Paisley, and Glasgow markets. The horses raised in the parish are but few. Those kept by the farmers, are generally young, and of a large size. The common method of supplying themselves is, they buy them when 2 or 3 years old, from the yearly market at Lanark, where large quantities are sold of all sizes. They keep them for 1 or 2 years, and with the easy work of ploughing their farms, with little more work they put them to, this with good feeding, raises them to a large size, and then they sell them; often at double the prices they bought them at; and in this way many farmers have considerably increased their stock. Many such horses have of late been sold from 30*l.* to 40*l.* The amount of horses in the parish may be about 300.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The great roads in the parish are, by a proper attention of the trustees, in good repair, and all made by the statute-labour. The by-roads will probably also soon be attended to. And, as to bridges, few parishes can boast of having so many; no fewer than 9, great and small, are to be found within half a mile of the village, and those mostly built at the expense of the parish, which shows a proper attention to their own safety, as well as that of travellers; and much to their credit surely it is, as the village cannot be approached without crossing some water or burn; and on each of which a bridge is to be found.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—There are 3 clergymen in the village of Dalry, the minister of the Established Church, of the Antiburgher, and the Burgher Seceders, both of whom were

were established lately in the parish. There are no Episcopalians, or Roman Catholics. The patron is Mr. Blair of Blair. The manse and offices were built in 1766; the church in 1771; and an excellent school-house fit to accommodate 100 children, with an house to the schoolmaster, in 1790. All which buildings are in good order and repair. The stipend, one year with another, is about 97 l., including 50 l. Scots for communion elements, and exclusive of manse, and a glebe of about 7 Scots acres arable. The schoolmaster's salary is 81 l. 10 s. Scots, he has a school-house, dwelling-house, and garden. The ground occupied for the same, was a present of 12 falls, made by David late Earl of Glasgow, to the heritors, about the year 1725. The schoolmaster has, at an average, about 60 scholars through the year. He teaches Latin, French, English, and Arithmetic; is session-clerk; has the charge of the poor's money; has perquisites from marriages and baptisms. The amount of his living, on the whole, may be about 30 l., a sum surely too inconsiderable to encourage a man of education and ability, to undertake such a laborious and useful charge. And it is to be hoped, that heritors, not only in this, but in other parishes, will soon be inclined to hold out better encouragement to such an useful set of men. There is also a private school in the village, which has, at an average, about 30 attending it; besides some private schools in the country part of the parish.—The number of poor who are maintained weekly from the poor's funds, may, at an average, be about 12, besides others who are occasionally supplied. They are supported by the collections on Sunday, mortcloth money, and the interest of a small stock they have on hand. The yearly sum expended may be about 54 l. There has not been, for many years past, one in the parish that has gone about begging, yet plenty of such, from other parishes, are continually infesting us. Though, what our own poor get from the

the parish-funds, may not always be sufficient fully to maintain them, yet, by their own little industry, with what they get, they are enabled to live with some degree of comfort. And, in cases of old age and sickness, more ample provisions are made for them. From 1s to 2s. a-week is generally allowed. And all this is conducted by the advice of the session who make it their business to inquire into every one's particular necessities; and this they do with the greatest attention. Orphans and idiots are generally boarded at the yearly expense of 4l., and sometimes a little more. The parish has not been assessed for the maintenance of the poor, so far back as can be remembered.

Baptisms in the year,	} at an average, may be about	50
Marriages in ditto,		20
Burials in ditto,		24

*Coals, Lime, &c.*—There are 3 coal pits generally going, within less than a mile of the village. Coals are not sold by the weight, but by a measure called a hutch, 4 of which fills a cart, sufficient for an ordinary horse to draw, and the cart is bought at the pit for 2 s. The seams of coal are different in thickness at the different pits, from 27 inches, to 5 feet 4 inches. The pits are not deep, from 3 to 2½ fathoms. Coals abound so much in some parts of the parish, that farmers, in digging their ditches, often discover a thin seam, which they dig out for the use of their families, and sometimes also in such quantities, as are employed in burning limestones for their farms. Limestones also abound in many parts of the parish, in seams of considerable thickness. These are sold at different prices, according to the trouble that attends the working them, and in proportion to the quantity of lime they produce. The lowest price is 3 d., and the highest 7 d. for a cart-load, or as many

as one horse can draw. A chalder of lime, or 80 Winchester bushels, is generally got from 4 such carts. Farmers generally burn their own lime for the use of the farm. Lime, often bought from those who prepare it for sale, is got for £s. 8 d. for the farm, and, when prepared for building, at 8 s. the chalder. Owing to the plenty and cheapness of lime, a free use is made of it by farmers, this being the only manure that can be come at, as no dung can be bought, and no marl as yet discovered, so as to become of general use. Peat also abounds in many parts of the parish, so that many farmers provide themselves with such large quantities, as to depend almost wholly upon it for fuel. Peats, when sold, are at 14 d. or 15 d. the cart; and the cart is so constructed, as to hold a large quantity, no measure being in use for such an article. They who live at a distance from the moss, provide only a small quantity. Peats are generally employed in heating of milk for cheese-making, and in drying all kinds of grain for the mill. There is plenty of iron-stone in several parts of the parish, but none of it as yet wrought.

*Manufactures.*—These are mostly confined to the village. Some years ago, when the silk manufacture flourished, there were above 100 silk weavers in the village, besides a few in the country part of the parish; and these were generally employed by the silk manufacturers in Paisley or Glasgow. But now the number of such weavers is greatly reduced, and cotton weaving has become the chief trade of the place. I have been at some pains to find out the numbers of men, women, and children now employed in the different branches of silk and cotton working; and they are as follows:

Silk weavers,	- - - - -	36
Women to prepare the silk yarn for the loom,	-	8
Cotton		

Cotton weavers, - - - - -

Women and children to prepare the yarn for the loom, 127

Some more than a year ago, a few belonging to the parish began the spinning of cotton on mule jennies, which they are still doing, having 15 constantly going, and a small carding mill which goes by water, for preparation. And as they mean to extend their work to the number of 30 jennies, they are now building a carding mill on a larger scale, to go by water, to answer the purpose of preparation for the above number. The cotton yarn is not manufactured in the place but is sent to the Paisley or Glasgow markets. Those at present employed in the above work, including men, women, and children, may be about 50; and when the work is doubled those employed will be in proportion. There is in the village, and country part of the parish, a sufficient number common weavers, shoemakers, smiths, wrights, tailors, and those who sell grocery goods, and all kinds of men and women apparel, of the best and finest kind. And as to ale and whisky-houses, of them there are more than is necessary, to the great prejudice of the temporal interest and morals of so many, and especially of those who can, with ease, earn from 2 s. to 3 s. a-day; the prosperity of such persons often destroys them. The village is a most convenient situation for manufactures, on account of its healthy situation, easy rents and cheap fuel, when compared with many places in the neighbourhood. And for carrying on a bleaching business, suppose a more convenient situation cannot be found, having so many streams of water all around; but nothing of this kind has as yet been tried.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number

ber of souls then was 1498. The present state of population, from a list that was lately taken, is as follows :

Examinable persons in the country part of the parish,	904
Not examinable ( <i>i. e.</i> all below 6 or 7 years old) in do.	282
Examinable in the village,	607
Not examinable in do.	207
	—
	2000

The above list includes Seceders.

In the country part of the parish; the population has decreased during the last 30 years, owing to the enlarging of grazing farms, by which many tenants and cottagers were dislodged. But in the above period, the village has increased in population almost double. And in the same period, the parish has increased in population, at least 300. And as the village has thus increased in population, so houses have been built in proportion. So that now, a number of new slated and well finished houses may be seen, suited to the manufactures that are going on.

*Mineral Spring, &c.*—Some years ago, by boring in search of coal, was raised a very strong sulphureous spring, at 9 fathoms depth, that has been used with success in scorbutic, eruptive, and ulcerous disorders, and in stomachic complaints\*.

*Cave.*—In the farm of Auchinskeith; and on the side of a limestone crag, is a remarkable cave, scooped by the hand of

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nature.

\* *Antiquities.*—There is adjoining the village, an artificial mount called Courthill. It is of a conical figure, of considerable height and thickness, and every way regular in its shape. It has been boored with iron rods to a considerable depth, and found to be wholly made up of earth. The design of these mounts,

nature. It is 44 feet above the bed of a rivulet, is covered with 30 feet of rock and earth, and crowned with wood. The entrance is adorned with a vast prominent rock 27 feet broad, and 30 long, sloping a little upward. The inward structure  
is

mounts, which are not uncommon, may be guessed at by antiquaries. They are generally supposed to be places where the ancient barons held their courts of law, gave orders to, and harangued their retainers, and where they frequently covered the remains of a departed Christian. There is to be found the remains of a ruin, called a Chapel, supposed to be a Rounish one. Lately a cairn of stones was removed from the top of a hill, called Lawhill, and there was found a stone coffin containing human bones. About 16 years ago, on removing a large heap of earth and stones, there was found a stone coffin, with 3 or 4 urns, containing burnt bones. The urns are said to have had letters or figures on them, but were broken by the workmen in hopes of treasure. Camphill, near the borders of the parish of Largs, is said to be the place, where the Scots army, under Alexander III. encamped, previous to the battle of Largs 1263. Between that and Largs is Routdon-burn, supposed to derive its name from a detachment of King Haco of Denmark's army, being there attacked and put to the rout, and that *dow*, is a contraction of *Dane*. What renders this more probable, on the banks of the Routdon-burn, is a large cairn, upon removing part of which, lately was discovered a stone coffin. The knights Templars had lands in this parish, and are called Temple lands at this day.—Anciently, there were 2 churches in the parish; the one on the east, the other on the west of the village, and little more than a quarter of a mile distant from the present church. Within these last 40 years past, the remains of the east church have been seen by some now living. The west church, though no remains of the building can be traced, yet from a piece of ground being there, still called the old glebe, it is probable the church may have stood near to it. This old glebe, was exchanged about 50 years ago, for the present one. At what period the 2 churches were united, and the church first built where the present one now stands, is uncertain, but thought to have been between the years 1600 and 1608. No augmentation of stipend of Dalry since 1650; when, at the instance of Mr. Robert Bell, then minister, pursuer, the stipend was then fixed at what it now is. The decree bears to have proceeded on an agreement between Blair of Blair, tackman of the teinds of the parish, by tack granted to him by John, Archbishop of St. Andrew's, Commendator of Kilwinning, dated the last day of May 1616, and a commissions from the presbytery of Irvine, in name and behalf of Mr. Bell the pursuer.—The mosses in the low part of the parish, do evidently cover

is like Gothic arched work, supported with massy columns and buttresses. Its width varies in different places from 5 to 19 feet; its height from 5 to 12 feet; and its length, so far as is accessible, is about 183 feet. About the middle of it is a

O 2

spacious

cover the remains of ancient forests. Trees of different species and dimensions are often found, some of them very large, particularly oak and elm, which are the prevailing kinds, and usually broken off near the roots, and lie along in a direction from S. W. to N. E. The roots all stand in a perpendicular posture, and as close as the roots of trees in a forest. All the limestone quarries abound with marine petrifications of numerous varieties, and incumbent on some such quarries, is a bed of stone marl from 3 to 5 feet depth. It has been analyzed and found to contain from 30 to 50 parts of calcareous earth, and falls soon to powder when exposed to sun and weather. No proper trial of it as a manure has been made.

*Miscellaneous Observations:* —It is thought by many, that the Clyde and sea at Irvine or Saltcoats might be connected with a Canal, and that from the level nature of the intervening strath, and plentiful supply of water to be got from the lochs of Lochwinnoch and Kilbirny; and as coal much abounds in many parts of that strath, it might be conveyed to those towns near to which the Canal might go, perhaps on much easier terms, than otherwise they can be provided, with many other articles that would be conveyed through such a long and fertile part of the country.—From the small number of sheep in the parish, little attention has yet been paid to the improvement of the breed, or wool. In the sheep farms no attention has been paid. In the low part of the parish, many farmers keep from 2 to half a-dozen of sheep, that feed with their milch cows, these are generally of a mixed breed between Scotch and English, of a larger size (from 12 to 14 lib. a quarter) and the wool of a much finer quality, than what is got from the small moor sheep, and will bring one-third more when sold. I have known 10 or 12 English pounds, and sometimes more, got from them. The number of such in the parish, may be about 100.—Lately died in the parish, a couple who had been married 52 years, both were above 80 years old, 16 hours only intervened between their deaths, and both were buried in one grave. Died in the parish, in 1789, a woman about 60 years of age. She had been thrice married. By her first husband she became pregnant, and her pains came severely upon her, about the ordinary time; but she was not delivered. She continued ever after to have the appearance of pregnancy. Her first husband dying, she was again married to a farmer, who also died in a few years.

spacious opening, 35 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 12 high. The whole internal surface is variously indented. Its floor is nearly dry; its sides and corners run off into many crevices; and its roof is emblazoned by calcareous incrustations.

## N U M.

years. She was lastly married to another farmer, about the year 1772. He died in 1788, and she survived him about 9 months. She was of a full habit of body, and enjoyed good health, till about 5 months before her death, when she began to fall off much, was confined to her bed, and her legs swelled. Her pregnant appearance still remained, and she told some of her neighbours, that about 33 years ago, she expected to be delivered, and felt life and motion in the child. This excited the desire of the surgeons to have her body opened after her death. Leave was granted by her friends, to a skilful surgeon in Beith to open her. But he not coming at the appointed time, two persons of small skill and experience, performed the operation in a coarse manner, and could not give a proper account of the situation in which they found the fetus. They, however, did find a child come to maturity, and in a perfect state of preservation. It was immediately laid on the table, before more than a dozen of people that were present. The operators were allowed to carry it away; and I saw it afterward myself. The incrustation round it was tough, and of a horny appearance when I saw it, and in laying the incrustation open, it appeared one of the child's arms had been harmed. I heard it was afterward in the possession of the late Dr. William Hamilton, and Mr. Monteath surgeon, Glasgow, for some time, who took a drawing of it, as the persons who extracted it, would not part with it, but at an extravagant price. I have also heard, that some of the medical gentlemen at Edinburgh, are in possession of it at this very time.

NUMBER X.

PARISH or BARONY of GLASGOW.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRES.  
BYTERY OF GLASGOW.

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN BURNS.*

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*Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.*

THE city of Glasgow, and the barony parish, till the year 1595, made but one parish. But population having so much increased, that it was inconvenient for the inhabitants of the town and country to meet in one place, they were at that time disjoined; and the landward part of the parish, as distinguished from the town, was called the *barony*. This parish is both large and populous, extending from 2 to 5 or 6 miles around the city of Glasgow, except on the south side. The soil is various. In some places it is a rich clay, in others a light sand: towards the N. and N. E., it is a cold clay, or spongy and moorish, but considerably improved by the attention paid to draining, liming, and a better mode of cultivation adopted by the farmers; still, however, there is much room

for

for improvements, and these are carrying on with considerable spirit in different parts. Though there are no high hills in the parish, there are many beautiful swells, which greatly diversify the appearance, and add much to the beauty of the country. On the banks of Clyde, at Westhorn, and in many other places, the landscape is rich, various, and delightful. The river winding through richly cultivated fields, and frequently lost among the trees, which grow upon its banks; interspersed with many gentlemen's houses, and the large and populous city of Glasgow, with its numerous spires and venerable cathedral, present to the eye various striking views, and fill the mind with the pleasing ideas of industry, wealth, security, and happiness.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate is temperate, the air healthy, though rather moist, when compared with the eastern parts of Scotland, and many of the inhabitants live to an advanced age, though at present there are none above 90 years old. The diseases most prevalent are consumptions and fevers; which last, for want of proper attention to cleanliness, and a free circulation of fresh air, prove so infectious, as generally to go through the whole family, and relapses are very frequent. The common people, however, are now beginning to be more attentive than formerly to the cleanliness and ventilation of their houses. Indeed, from the increase of trade, and of wealth among them, their houses, and the whole style of their living is much improved within these few years. This season the small-pox has been very frequent among the children, and vast numbers have died. Inoculation is yet far from being generally practised, though the unreasonable prejudices entertained against it are gradually wearing off. In the villages, the great bulk of the inhabitants being employed in manufactures, many of them are very subject to flatulency,

and

and the diseases incident to sedentary people. And the weavers, probably from the want of due circulation by the pressure of the seat, are very often afflicted with what they call *fore legs*, or bad ulcers in their legs, very difficult to be healed. Lime-water has been used of late in many cases with great success.

*Mineral Springs, and Minerals.—* There are chalybeate springs in different parts of the parish, particularly on the side of the river Clyde, above Rutherglen bridge. At Anderston there is a spring which contains one grain of mineral alkali or soda in the pint of water. And at Northwoodside, there is a sulphureous spring upon the side of the river Kelvin, which formerly was often used, it is said, with success, in scorbutic disorders. But for a considerable time past no attention has been paid to it, and the water of the river now runs into it. This parish abounds with coal of an excellent quality, and sold at a very reasonable price, being laid down in the city of Glasgow, at the rate of 3 s. 9 d. the cart of 12 cwt. This cheapness of fuel is of the utmost importance to the comfort of the inhabitants, and the thriving of manufactures: And as the fields of coal in the neighbourhood are immense, it is to be hoped the price will always continue so moderate as to preserve to Glasgow the superiority she at present enjoys above most places. Indeed, were the price of fuel to be raised so high as to injure the manufactures, the coal-owners themselves would equally suffer. The value of the coal produced from the different mines may amount to about 30,000 l. annually. Those belonging to James M'Nair, Esq. of Shettleston, produce from 5000 l. to 6000 l. Sterling annually \*.

*Manufactures.*

\* On his colliery, the first steam-engine for drawing off the water from the coal-pits, was erected, in the year 1764. Since that time near 20 steam-engines have

*Manufactures.*—The weaving manufacture is carried on to a great extent in this parish, there being at present upwards of 3000 looms employed. Within these 10 years; however, this branch of manufacture has undergone an almost total change. Before that time, they were employed in lawns, shirting, check, and handkerchiefs, linen handkerchiefs for printing, and bloucks, consisting of linen-warp, and cotton-weft, which were printed for neck-handkerchiefs, gowns, and bed-furniture. But now they are almost wholly in the muslin line; very few lawns or checks being manufactured in this place. Though the muslin trade has been but lately established, yet it has already risen to great perfection. And were the importation of East India muslins in some measure restrained, and the fine cotton wool brought home, it is impossible to say to what extent this branch might be carried, and how much this country

have been set up in the neighbourhood of Glasgow. There are several strata or seams of coal of different thicknesses, and at different distances from one another. These all lie nearly parallel to each other, but not parallel to the surface of the earth, having their *dip*, as it is termed by the colliers, or their declination towards the river Clyde, and rising, as you retire from the river, nearer to the surface of the earth till they *crop* out. And what is very remarkable, the seams of coal on the other side of Clyde, also have their dip towards its bed; so that the strata on the different sides of the river, instead of lying in the same plane, are inclined to each other at a certain angle. In some pits, the strata of coal are of the following thicknesses: 1st, The upper coal from 4 to 4½ feet thick: 2d, Ell-coal from 2½ to 3 feet: And 3d, Main coal from 4½ to 5½ feet. These are the only seams that have as yet been wrought. Above the coal there lies a thin but very rich stratum of iron-stone. Till within these few years that the Clyde iron-works were erected on the borders of this parish, the whole iron-stone in this part of the country was disregarded, and sometimes proved a great incumbrance. Now, it is a source of wealth, and gives employment to several hands in this parish. Besides coal and iron-stone, there are beds of very good free-stone, particularly at Poffit, much used in the city of Glasgow for building and flagging the sides of the streets. And on the east side of the fir park adjoining to the city, there is a large whinstone quarry, whence all the stones used for paving the streets have been brought.

try might be benefited by it. But as the manufactures of this parish are immediately connected with the city of Glasgow, they will be more properly and fully treated of there. It is therefore unnecessary to say any thing farther of them in this place. Only it may be proper to take notice of the improvements introduced by Mr. George Mackintosh; a gentleman whose spirited and successful exertions have been of the greatest benefit to the manufactures of this country, and by whom I have been favoured with the following account: The cudbear manufacture carried on here, under the firm of George Mackintosh and Co. was begun in the year 1777, occupying about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of ground, compactly built, and well walled round with stone and lime. This is a manufacture for making a dye-stuff, now becoming an useful article, and employed chiefly in the woollen and silk manufactures of Britain, and is made from an excrescence that grows upon rocks and stones, a species of the liechen or rock-moss, which, with certain chemical preparations, makes a dye-stuff called cudbear. It was known and used as a dye-stuff in the Highlands of Scotland by the name of corkes or crottel, some hundred years ago. But it was Messrs. George and Cuthbert Gordon, (now Dr. Cuthbert Gordon), who first attempted, and had the merit of bringing the process to a regular system. They, in conjunction with the Messrs. Alexanders of Edinburgh, erected a manufacture for it in Leith, in which they persevered for several years. But it proved in the end unsuccessful. Considerable improvements have been made in the manufacture since its establishment in Glasgow. And the Company finding that the rock-moss in Scotland would soon be exhausted, early sent a person of skill to explore the rocks of Sweden and Norway, whence they, for some time past, import all they use. But there it is also beginning to be scarce. Russia appears to produce none of it. This manufacture consumes a very consider-

derable quantity of human urine ; above 2000 gallons a-day. They have about 1500 iron-bound casks dispersed among the manufacturing and tradesmen's houses in Glasgow and suburbs. For each cask full they pay a certain price, which, with the expense of collecting, costs them about 800 l. a-year, for an article which formerly ran in waste through the kennels and drains of the streets. The dying of Turkey red on cotton, though a very late discovery in this kingdom, was established in Glasgow earlier than in any part of Great Britain. In the year 1785, Mr. George Mackintosh being in London, fell in with Monsieur Papillon, a Turkey red dyer from Rouen, carried him with him to Glasgow, and, in conjunction with Mr. David Dale, built an extensive dye-house at Dalmarnock in this parish, upon the banks of the river Clyde, where cotton is dyed a real Turkey red, equal in beauty and solidity to East India colours. There is another dyehouse, equally extensive, lately erected for the same purpose, in the neighbourhood of this one, also in the barony parish, under the management of Mr. Papillon, who is now connected with another Company. At both places the Turkey red colours are now made in great perfection. By means of these establishments, the ingenious and industrious manufacturers of this place are enabled to make cotton-pulicate handkerchiefs, equal in beauty and quality to any in the known world. And although the Messrs. Bouilles (one of whom is fixed at Manchester) did obtain a premium from Parliament for the Turkey red, the business was first established here ; and specimens of manufactured pulicates of a superior colour, it is said, were produced before a committee of the House of Commons, (made by Mr. Mackintosh, who was the first who manufactured any here) while Mr. Bouille could only produce cuts of cotton-yarn done by him. It is now computed that there are above 1500 looms employed in this branch of pulicate alone, in

Glasgow

Glasgow and neighbourhood. This colour is so fast, or fixed, that when wove with brown cotton, or linen yarn, it resists and stands the whole process of bleaching, and acquires more beauty and lustre by this trying operation ; and when wrought in with bleached yarn, requires 24 hours boiling in soap and ashes, to reduce it to its vivid standard. Acids, which destroy most other reds, in a moderate degree, improve this. Making Turkey red is a most intricate and troublesome process, requiring about 15 different operations in the common course of dying.

Near to the cudbear manufacture, is just now commenced a business carried on by George and Charles Mackintosh, entirely new in this, or, we believe, in any other country. It is the making of a newly discovered chymical preparation, which answers as a real substitute in dyeing and printing, for *saccharum saturni*, or sugar of lead and alum. It is hoped it will be an useful undertaking, as hitherto all, or by far the greatest part of the sugar of lead used in Britain has been imported from Holland. These ingenious and economical people, though a duty of 3d. the pound is imposed on this article when imported, and though receiving their lead from Britain, yet have hitherto been able to undersell all who have made any attempt of the same kind in this kingdom. Mr. Mackintosh and his son Charles intended this for a sugar of lead business ; but in the course of their experiments in that way, this improvement occurred to Charles Mackintosh, who is a very able chymist ; and the work is now entirely employed for this purpose. They supply the printers with this preparation at a lower rate than that which is usually made from the Dutch sugar of lead. The principal printfields in the country have tried, are now using, and approve of it, as making an equally fixed, and, at the same time, a more beautiful colour than that done in the usual manner with sugar of lead.

and allum. And I understand they can supply the whole consumpt of the country \*.

### *Division*

\* In the year 1784, a cotton mill was built at North Woodside in this parish, by Mr. William Gillespie, which gives employment to about 400 persons, men, women and children. This, with the people engaged in the bleachfield, and otherwise, has made Woodside a considerable village, while it has become the seat of plenty and comfort, the happy consequence of industry and manufactures. Sensible of the advantages of religion and good morals, to promote the industry and happiness of the people, the benevolent proprietor pays particular attention to these. He has not only engaged a master to teach the children, through the week, to read, but he has also fitted up, and supports at his own expence, a place for public worship on the Lord's day, where a decent congregation regularly assembles. And in the afternoon, the preacher publicly catechises and instructs the children. The knowledge thus diffused among the children and the inhabitants of that part of the parish, is an honourable testimony to the fidelity and diligence of Mr. James Steven the preacher; and the good effects, it is to be hoped, will extend, at least among some, much farther than merely that regularity, sobriety, and industry, which serve so much to promote their temporal prosperity and comfort. The yarn spun at this mill, employs about 450 weavers, exclusive of those who get their bread by winding, starching, &c.

In 1772, the same gentleman established a printfield at Anderston, which, with the bleachfield, give employment to between 300 and 400 people. The cloth there printed, may employ 500 or 600 operative weavers. Besides these, there are several other bleachfields at Finnieston, Calton, Springfield, and other places, conducted upon the most improved principles, and which give bread to a great number of persons. About 30 years ago, a very large brewery was erected near Anderston, for brewing ale and porter, both for foreign and home consumpt. To so great an extent do they carry on business, that near a 9th part of the whole excise of Scotland has been paid by them.

At Partick on the river Kelvin, there are very extensive wheat mills erected: the greatest part of which belong to the incorporation of bakers in Glasgow. The mills are well constructed, and much machinery introduced for the abridgement of labour. At the bakers wheat mills alone, at an average of the 4 last years from May 1786 to May 1799, 36,113 bolls of wheat and a-half have been annually milled.

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—The time of sowing wheat, is from the middle of September to the middle of October; oats, pease, beans, and flax, from the middle

*Division and Rent of Land.*—The whole valued rent of the parish, as stated in the cess-books for the county, is 13,000 l. Scotch; but of this 4000 l. is held by the College of Glasgow, as the teind of the archbishoprick, for which they have never yet paid any public burdens. The heritors are 92 in number, of whom 59 reside in the parish, either constantly or occasionally. The farms are, in general, about 60 acres, though there are some of 160, and some as low as 20 acres. In the neighbourhood of the villages, a great deal of the land is rented in very small parcels by the tradesmen, for the purpose of rearing potatoes, &c. The soil being very different, the rents are also different; but from the spirit for improvement which prevails, and the increasing demand in the city of Glasgow for the produce of the farms, the rents are every where rising. The greatest part of the land is enclosed, the face of the country much improved, and the tenants better able to afford a higher rent than formerly. At present, there

is

middle of March to the middle of April; potatoes and barley in May; and turnips in June and July. The harvest generally begins about the middle or end of August, and the crop is got totally in about the middle of October, except in cold and wet seasons. The price of grain and provisions in this parish, is regulated by the Glasgow markets, and need not be here separately stated.

*The Price of Labour.*—The wages of day-labourers are, in winter, from 10d. to 1s., and in summer from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. a-day. Journeymen weavers earn from 10s. to 14s. a-week, and some 20s. In harvest, the men's wages, a-day, for reaping, are from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., and the women's 1s.; both of them furnish their own provisions out of their wages. Colliers earn from 2s. 9d. to 3s. each day; but are so many days out of the pit, that they seldom, at an average, earn above 30l. annually. The wages of domestic servants are, for men 10l., and for women from 3l. to 5l. a-year. A ploughman's wages are, in general, about 10l. or 12l.; but some who have excelled at the ploughing matches, some time ago introduced into this country, have got their wages advanced to 25l. a-year, besides bed, board, and washing. The expenses of a woman labourer's family, when married, are generally about 16l. a-year.

is some of the worst ground rented at 10s. the acre, and the best arable land at 3l.; garden ground is let at from 4l. to 6l. a year. There are 3 different kinds of ploughs used, according to the nature of the soil; but the old Scotch plough is the most common.

*Villages, Rents of Houses, and New Houses.*—As manufactures are carried to a great extent in the city of Glasgow, their influence is felt on all the country round; and a number of very populous and thriving villages have been built in this parish. These are Calton and Bridgeton, Grahamston, Anderston, Finnieston, Clayflap, North-Woodside, Cowcaddens, Parkhouse, Camlachie, Parkhead, Westmuir, Shettleston, Lightburn, Calendar and Dennistoun. In these, the general rent of the houses is from 2l. to 5l. a-year, though there are many much higher, and some as low as 15s. Within the last ten years, 486 new dwelling-houses or tenements, have been built: and of these the greater part have been erected within the last 4 or 5 years. It is to be observed, that many of these houses are made to accommodate 2, 3, or 5 or 6 families. None of the houses erected in the New Town of Glasgow are included in the enumeration, though the greatest part of it is situated within the Barony parish.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then was 3905. In the beginning of the year 1791, there were living in the Barony parish of Glasgow, exclusive of the whole of the New Town of Glasgow, 18,451 persons. The proportion of souls to a family is 4<sup>7</sup> nearly.

The Population of the villages is as under :

Calton and Bridgeton,	6695	Shuttleston and Middle-
Grahamston,	- 896	Quarter, - 766
Anderston,	- 3900	Callendar and Denni-
Cowcaddens and North-		stoun, - - 608
Woodfide,	- 1158	Sandyhills, &c.
Parkhouse	- 499	
Camlachie,	- 977	Total, 16,518
Parkhead and Westmuir,	678	

TABLE of MARRIAGES and BIRTHS.

Years.	Marriages.	Births.	Males.	Females.
1700	21	51		
1750	43	449		
1772	108	314	166	148
1782	111	320	158	162
1783	112	319	162	157
1784	137	374	197	177
1785	156	423	210	213
1786	173	434	214	220
1787	206	490	249	241
1788	179	470	253	217
1789	171	498	247	251
1790	212	534	269	265
1791	246	520	261	259

Both the marriages and births are, in fact, somewhat more numerous than stated above, because every year the number of irregular clandestine marriages is increasing ; but the above table contains only those who have been regularly married, or have judicially acknowledged their marriage before the session. And the number of births is taken from the register of baptisms ; but some of the dissenters, from principle, and some other inhabitants, from inattention, neglect to give in their children's names for registration. No account can be given of

of the burials, because, though there are now three burying places in the parish, yet a great part of the inhabitants are interred in the burying grounds belonging to the city.

*Public Houses.*—In the beginning of the year 1791, there were 169 public houses for retailing malt and spirituous liquors. The vast increase of these houses is one of the greatest injuries to the morals, the health, and the prosperity of the inhabitants. In almost every village, several low houses of this sort are to be found; and the consequences are at once both obvious and melancholy. If the number of virtuous inhabitants be the strength of a state, then enlightened policy should lead to the suppression of many of these houses, and particularly to discourage the use of all spirituous liquors.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish, Schools, Poor, &c.*—The parish church is a part of that venerable building, the cathedral of Glasgow, and has been occupied by the Barony since the year 1595. Being of an arched roof, which is low, and supported by a great number of massive pillars, it is exceedingly dark, dirty, and inconvenient; of this the heritors are sensible, that a visitation of the presbytery has been called upon it this year; and there is some probability of another church being built for the accommodation of the inhabitants. At Shettleston, in the east end of the parish, a Chapel of Ease was erected about 50 years ago; and there is another, as mentioned above, at North Woodside, supported at the sole expense of Mr. William Gillespie. Another chapel is much needed in the village of Calton, and, it is to be hoped, will be provided. At Anderston, there is a Relief Church, built about 20 years ago: one Cameronian meeting in the Calton and another at Sandyhills, in the east end of the parish. Though there are many dissenters of different denominations

in the parish; these are the only places of worship, because a great number of the inhabitants are accommodated in the city of Glasgow. The numbers connected with each of the different denominations of Christians in the parish, including their children, is as follows :

	Soul.
Connected with the Established Church,	22369
Relief,	2793
Burghers,	1564
Antiburghers,	1054
Reformed Presbytery, or Cameronians,	220
Episcopalian,	272
Independents, or Congregationalists,	362
Methodists,	64
Baptists,	25
Roman Catholics,	20
Quakers,	4
Presens,	3
Glassites,	2
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Total souls,	18452

Of these 6000 are dissenters\*.

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\* Though, from the above statement it appears, that the number of dissenters from the Established Church is very considerable, yet, perhaps there are few parishes where less of a party-spirit is to be found. The people of various persuasions meet in the intercourses of social life, and even cultivate habits of intimacy and friendship with each other, without suffering their minds to be embittered with disputes respecting their differences of opinion or profession. In this liberality of mind, they have an amiable example set them by their ministers, who are men of good sense, learning, and piety. And it is with pleasure I do them the justice to acknowledge, that the dissenters, in general, are as pious, virtuous, upright, industrious, and respectable, as any in the parish.

The King is patron. The stipend is about 165 l. annually, including the value of the glebe, consisting of about 6 acres and a half, and the rent allowed by the heritors in lieu of a manse.—There are few of the inhabitants who have been bred in this parish, who have not been taught to read; and most of them can write, and understand the common rules of arithmetic. Education is so cheap, as not to be placed beyond the reach of the poorest. And the people are so impressed with a sense of its importance, that all parents, if not most profligate themselves, are exceedingly anxious to have their children instructed in reading. They often cheerfully deny themselves many of the comforts of life to give their children education; and many of them have been rewarded, by seeing them rising to affluence and respect in society. As the Barony parish is very extensive, the children could not be accommodated at one school. In the beginning, therefore, of this century, the legal salary was divided into four equal parts, and four schools erected in those places of the parish then judged most convenient for the inhabitants: One at Shettleston, where an excellent school-house, in which the master is also accommodated, has been very lately built by private subscription; the master has also the benefit of two small mortifications, paid by the session: one school at Rachazie, for the north-east quarter of the parish: one at Lambhill or Ruchhill, for the north-west quarter: and one at Anderston, where a school-house was mortified by the laird of Stabcross. Besides these, there are fifteen private schools, attended some of them by above 70 children: a charity school in the Calton, supported by Mr. David Dale, the master has 15 l. salary annually; and one in the mill at Woodside, supported by Mr. Gillespie, for the instruction of the children attending his cotton-mill. There are also 4 Sunday's schools, very well attended, viz. two in Calton, of about 70 children, boys and girls

girls each; one in Camlachie, only for boys; and one at Shettleston. The school-wages paid in the villages are 2s. 6d; or 3s. the quarter; and at one school, 4 s.; and in the country, in general, 2 s. a-quarter. Many children also in the neighbourhood of Glasgow attend schools in the city, for different branches of education.—The number of poor upon the roll of the session last year, (1790), amounted to 186: And the sum expended for their relief was 247 l. 8 s. 4 d., which, at an average, is 2 s. a-month nearly to each. The least given to any person is 1 s. a-month, and none received more than 5 s. a-month, excepting one woman, who is insane, for whom 12 s. a-month is paid by the session; and some children, who are boarded till they are able to do something for themselves, at the rate of 3 l. 12 s. 8 d. a-year. The session also pays for their education, as they do for all the children of the poor upon their roll \*.

## Q. 2

## Roads

\* The session indeed are particularly attentive to this, being fully persuaded that a proper education and habits of sobriety and industry are of the greatest importance to the comfort of the individual, and the benefit of society. The funds, provided for the support of these poor, under the management of the session were,

The collections at the church-doits, amounting to	-	L. 143 14 2 <i>½</i>
For proclamation of banns for marriage,	-	46 10 9
Interest of money,	-	22 10 0
For a few seats in the parish church belonging to the session, and some other incidental sums,	-	14 14 10 <i>½</i>
And an assessment paid by the heritors,	-	25 0 0
		<hr/>
		L. 252 9 9 <i>½</i>

The session are so much convinced, that regular assessments for the support of the poor, have the most dangerous tendency, that they exert themselves to the utmost to prevent the necessity of them. It is but a few years since they were obliged to have recourse to them, and they hope soon to be relieved from the necessity of resorting to so dangerous an expedient, as they expect a commo-

*Roads and Canals.*—All the great roads leading to the city of Glasgow, except by the two bridges on the S. side, pass through this parish. They are all kept in good order ; but on the N. side of the city they have been originally formed upon a most improper plan, being carried over the top of every hill, instead of being led about the side, which would have been as short, and nearly level. The Great Canal be-  
tween

dious place of worship will be provided for the inhabitants. It is proper to mention, that by the care of the elders in the distribution, no assessment has ever been laid on the heritors, to a greater extent, than the sum stated above ; and some years no assessment has been required. Before any person or family is admitted to receive any sessional charity, a strict examination is made into their employment, state of health, circumstances and earnings, all of which are distinctly entered into a book kept for the purpose, and to which recourse is had at any time, that the charity may be economically and properly distributed. The sums given by the session, are, in many cases, very inadequate to the necessities of particular persons ; when this is the case, private contributions are made among their neighbours to supply the deficiency, and a great deal of money is annually raised in this manner, which is always bestowed at the sight of the elder of the portion. Besides this, there are many charitable societies established in the parish, which afford much relief to tradesmen and labourers when laid aside from work by sickness. In general, the members, when in health, besides their first entry-money, pay a certain small sum quarterly into the funds of the society, for which they are entitled to a weekly provision in sickness ; funeral expenses also are allowed, in case of death, and some of them also give a certain allowance to the widow. Many tradesmen are members of several of these societies at the same time ; so that in sickness, they are better provided for than in health. These societies are of much advantage ; because in this way, youth and health make a provision for old age and sickness. They are also friendly to the morals of the members, because riotous, disorderly persons forfeit their right in the society, and, in general, they are cut off from any support in diseases evidently brought on by intemperance and vice. Of these societies, there are 26 in the parish. Some of them distribute annually from 7l. to 20l., and one of them distributes from 45l. to 50l. In general, the members receive from 4s. to 5s. a-week, when confined to bed, and 2s. or 3s. when able to go about, but not to work. One society also, besides defraying funeral charges, gives to the widow 10s. yearly, for the education of any children under 10 years of age.

tween Forth and Clyde passes through part of this parish, as does also that from Monkland. The Forth and Clyde navigation was begun to be cut on the 10th of July 1768, and was opened as far as Stoskingfield in this parish, 10th July 1775; a side-cut was brought forward to Hamilton-hill, November 1777, where a large basin was formed for the reception of vessels, and large granaries and other buildings erected. They are now carrying forward this side-cut, in order to form a junction with the Monkland Canal, which runs eastward through this parish to the collieries in Monkland parish, and extends to 12 miles in length. On this side-cut, a new basin is to be formed at Hundred Acre Hill in this parish, within half a mile of Glasgow; here granaries, and other buildings are to be erected, and a new village built, to be called Port-Dundas. The Canal was opened from sea to sea on the 29th day of July 1790, and is carried over four aqueduct bridges in this parish. The great bridge over Kelvin was begun in June 1787, and finished in April 1791. It is carried over a valley 400 feet long, and 65 deep. It consists of 4 very large arches of excellent mason work; is in height about 83 feet from the bed of the river to the top of the bridge, and is one of the most stupendous works of the kind perhaps in the world. The Canal is about 56 feet wide at the surface, and 27 feet at the bottom, is 8 feet deep, and admits vessels of 19 feet beam, and 68 feet keel. On the Canal there are 5 locks in this parish, within the space of 200 yards, each lock is 74 feet between the gates, and 20 between the walls. There is also a very good dry dock for the vessels employed upon the Canal.

*General Character of the People.*—The general character of the people, as yet, is that of sobriety and industry, though, from the great increase of wealth, and the number of public-houses  
for

for retailing spirituous liquors, intemperance, with its long train of evils, is becoming more prevalent than formerly among the labouring people. And it is to be lamented, that by the cheapness of spirituous liquors, and the increasing use of them, many young people of both sexes are early corrupted and ruined. Happy would it be for the health, the morals, and the prosperity of the people, if fewer public-houses were licensed, the use of spirituous liquors checked, and good wholesome ale substituted in their place.

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## NUMBER XI.

## PARISH OF CAIRNY.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN, SYNOD OF MURRAY, PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER CHALMERS,*

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*Situation, &c.*

CAIRNY is made up of the united parishes of Botary, Rathven, and part of Drumdelgy. This parish lies in the county of Aberdeen. It is a part of the lordship of Strathbogie, taken from the Cummins by King Robert Bruce, and given to Sir Adam Gordon. This was the original estate of the family of Gordon. Since that period they have extended their dominion from the E. to the W. Sea.

*Population, &c.—*According to Dr. Webster's report, the numbers then were 2690. It contains at present 2600 people. They consist of Presbyterians, Papists, and Episcopals. They were more numerous at my settlement here; the decrease is chiefly

chiefly owing to their wishing to reside in the neighbouring manufacturing villages of Huntly and Keith. The manufacturers there always find employment for a number of servants. The births are about 20 yearly; but indeed they cannot be well ascertained. Every person has his child baptized by his own pastor. They are careless of inserting them in the public register. The number of deaths cannot be known; for there are three church-yards in the parish: St. Peter's is indeed considered as the most holy ground, and consecrated to the Catholics. The diseases are generally of the inflammatory kind. Some years the small-pox makes great ravages. The country people are not yet reconciled to inoculation.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The soil is generally deep and good, especially in the lower part. If farming were encouraged, it is capable of producing grain for exportation. The ground is generally let out in small tenements or crofts. These are occupied by a number of tradesmen, who pay their rent by their business. The others breed some cattle; but indeed their rents are chiefly paid by the women spinning linen yarn. They always allot a piece of their land for sowing flax-seed, which turns out to great account. Were this branch attended to by the land proprietors, it would much increase the riches and prosperity of the country. The great tenants live upon their farms, but they depend especially on raising of cattle. The parish is tolerably well accommodated with grafts. Large quantities are sold yearly. It may be said, that during winter, this parish contains about 3000 black cattle. This is not a sheep country, though there are many parcels in the parish. The stormy winters are unfavourable to these animals.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in the parish of Cairny are naturally sober and industrious. The late inclement

ment seasons have run them into arrear of rent. This hangs over, and much dispirits them. Were this passed from but in part, it would give new life to their endeavours.—Tradition says, that some of the hills in Cairny were once covered with stately oaks. Now they present their nakedness to every passenger. Not one tree has been planted here for 60 years, though the river and burn-fides are favourable to their growth. Hard wood is scarce, which will hurt both the farmer and manufacturer.—Good roads (which was the foundation of the prosperity of the south country), are unknown here. Our moss is exhausted. The people must go to Portsoy for coals, by a road swarming with bogs and stones.—In the statistical account of this country, the manufacturing villages of Huntly and Keith should never be forgot. They are the sources of much riches. They pay a great part of the landholders rent. Huntly promises to be the Paisley of the north. Here is a large importation of flax from Holland and Flanders. Here are bleachfields, weaving linens and cotton; threads for Nottingham. It may be said that 500 l. weekly is in circulation for many months of the year. The town is increasing. The Duke of Gordon, the proprietor, is yearly giving off new feus. The town of Huntly is thriving amidst many difficulties. Portsoy, their sea-port, is 15 miles distant. Thence they bring their fuel, though the road is many times almost impassable.

Manufactures are of great importance in any country, and should always be encouraged. They enlarge our views, and introduce a spirit of liberty. A manufacturer has always more liberal notions than a farmer.

The manufacture of linen has introduced a certain cleanliness over all this country. It has almost banished the itch. On a holiday, or at a fair, it is pleasant to behold the people well dressed, showing away in their clean linen and thread-stockings.

## NUMBER XII.

## PARISH OF WEE M.

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES M'DIARMED.*

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## Name.

WEE M (Wamha, a cave) is said to have taken its name from a remarkable cave in a high rocky bank near the parish church, but of which, from the falling in of earth or some other accident, no vestige now remains\*.

## Rivers

\* This parish is so intermixed with those of Logierait, Dull, Fortingal, Kenmore, and Killin, that it would be to little purpose to attempt a geographical description of it. The different parts of it are pretty accurately marked in Mr. Stobie's map of Perthshire. From the uncommon manner in which parishes are divided in the presbytery of Dunkeld, in which this parish lies, it would appear, that when parishes were first established, every proprietor endowed the parish church most contiguous to his place of residence, with the tithes of his own lands, at whatever distance they happened to be situated. This seems to be the most probable reason why the very nearest farm to the church of Killin, on one side, is in the parish of Weem, though at the distance of 22 miles from the

*Rivers and Lakes.*—Parts of this parish lie along the rivers Tay, Lyon, Lochay, and Dochart. The two last fall into Loch Tay at the S. W. end, as the first runs out of it at the E. N. E. end, and is joined by the Lyon about 2 miles below. A district of this parish called the 12 merk-land of Achmore, lies at the S. W. corner of Loch Tay, and another 12 merk-land called Crannich, about the middle of it on the north side. Loch Tay is 15 miles long; and about 1 broad, yields salmon, trout, char, pike, and perch. Salmon is caught in drag-nets from October to August, and is sent to Perth and Edinburgh. There are also two lakes or lochs in the hill-grazing of the district of Roro in Glenlyon, each of which is more than a mile long, and about half as broad, which afford a great variety of trouts, and in great abundance. A man with his fishing-rod, has been known to catch 200 in a day, from 4 ounces to a pound weight a-piece.

*Higbways, Bridges.*—The great military road leading from Stirling to Inverness, passes through this parish, and is joined by several county roads at Tay bridge, which is about half a mile from the parish church. The military road is kept in repair by the Government, and the other roads by the statute-labour. Since these roads were made, 5 or 6 double carts ply constantly between this country and Perth. In summer

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the church of that parish; and there are other farms belonging to it at still a greater, both in Glenlyon and Glenlochay, some of which are above 30 miles from the parish church; and parts of several other parishes, and even several parish churches intervene. All these lands still hold of the family of Menzies. This division of parishes would be extremely inconvenient, both for the pastors and people, were it not for the harmony that has always subsisted among the former. Every clergyman performs the several functions of his office to those who live most contiguous to him, whether they are his own parishioners or not, excepting only parochial visitations and catechising, which every minister confines to his own parishioners.

they come and go twice a-week, in winter only once a-week. They are commonly well loaded going and returning. Besides these, shopkeepers and farmers send a number of carts to Perth for merchant goods, salt, iron, tar, and other necessaries. Before the roads were made, a very few horses carried in back-loads, all the goods that were brought to, or sent from this country. There are likewise very good bridges on the rivers Lyon and Lochay.

*Mountains, Climate, &c.*—The most remarkable mountains, of which a part belong to this parish, are that of Lawers on the north side of Loch Tay, and Benteskerny in Glenlochay. The first of these is reckoned the highest in Perthshire, being, according to a measurement, 4015 feet from the level of the sea. These mountains produce a great variety of alpine plants that are rarely to be met with in other parts of Britain. The air in this country is, in general, pure and healthy. Epidemical diseases seldom make their appearance, excepting measles, small-pox, and chin-cough. Before the practice of inoculation was introduced, the small-pox generally carried off one in 7; but since inoculation has become pretty general, not 1 in 200. Even those who are seized without being inoculated, escape much better than formerly, as the cool regimen is universally observed. The most common diseases, are rheumatisms both acute and chronic, pleurisies, quinsies, and other inflammatory disorders. The jaundice, before the year 1789, was a very uncommon disorder in this country; but since that period, hundreds have been seized with it of all ages and sexes. It is indeed but a slight disorder when taken in time, and properly treated, especially when the patient is young, or in the vigour of life; but where it attacks old people, or women with child, or when it is neglected, or improperly treated, it often proves a tedious,

dious, and in some cases, a dangerous disorder. No change in the way of living can account for this disorder being so frequent. In the cure of the pleurisy, an uncommon method of cupping was anciently used in this country, as well as in many other parts of the Highlands. The part affected was slightly scarified with a razor, in the form of a circle, and the broad end of a large cow horn was applied over it, and a piece being cut off the top, it was strongly sucked by a person's mouth, by which means a considerable quantity of blood was taken away, and often almost immediate relief was procured. Since the use of blisters and proper cupping apparatus have been introduced, this awkward method is, in most places, discontinued. A few tertian, and many puerid and nervous fevers are frequently brought from the Low Country. The tertians are easily cured; but the other kinds of fever prove often infectious, spread over considerable districts, and sometimes cut off a great many lives.

*Soil, Produce, &c.*—The soil of this parish varies according to the different parts of the country in which it is situated. The accounts given of the soil in the parishes of Dull, Forstingal, Kenmore, and Killin, apply respectively to the parts of this parish that are interwoven with these. The number of ploughs is 70, most of them now drawn by a horses. The number of carts is at least double that of ploughs, as many keep a cart who do not yoke a horse in a plough. In the lower parts of the parish, 20 acres arable may be reckoned a ploughgate; but in the higher parts, not above 7 or 8. There are sown annually in this parish, 500 bolls of oats, Linlithgow measure, which yield, at an average, four-fold; 195 bolls of barley, or rather bear, yielding about six-fold; pease, 40 bolls, yielding three-fold; potatoes, 125 bolls, yielding twelve-fold; and 15 hogsheads of flax seed, yielding between

between 3 and 4 stones the peck of scutched flax. The whole of this flax is dressed in water mills, which are erected in different parts of the country. The owner of the lint pays 1s. 4d. the stone, for dressing it at the mill. The whole of the flax, except what is necessary for linen for the people themselves, is spun into yarn of 4, 5, or 6 hanks from the pound weight, and sold in that state to manufacturers in Perth and Glasgow. There is a good deal of lime used for manure; and were it not for the scarcity and expense of fuel to burn it, there would be much more used, as the limestone is in great plenty in most places of this country; and as it is invariably found to succeed wherever it can be procured. Dung of the cattle and horses is almost the only other manure used here. No marl has been discovered. There have been of late years, a few patches sown with turnips, and afterward laid down with clover and rye-grass seeds, and both hay and turnips have answered very well. Turnips and potatoes are laid down in drills, and carefully hoed. There is very little of the ground enclosed or subdivided. March-fences, and head-fences to separate the arable from the pasture grounds, have been built in most places within the last 30 years. Before that period, the whole might, for the greatest part of the year, be considered as a common; but now, in most places, marches are strictly observed to the very tops of the mountains.

*Animals.*—Quadrupeds of the wild kind, are, a few red deer, roes, foxes, hares, wild cats, martins, otters, badgers, polecats, weasels, ermines, and moles. The foxes, before the year 1760, made great havock among the sheep, goats, &c.; but from that time, regular fox-hunters have been employed at fixed salaries, by whose diligence and skill vast numbers of foxes have been destroyed; so that their number is

now

now greatly reduced. Eagles, hawks of various kinds, ravens, hooded crows, and kites, breed in great numbers in rocks and woods ; and destroy lambs, and a great deal of game and poultry ; and yet there has been no public, and scarce any private encouragement given for their destruction. While the game laws are so severe, that shepherds, and others, whose occupation leads them to the places where these destructive creatures most abound, dare not carry a gun or kill a single moorfowl, no great effects can be expected from any plan laid down for destroying birds of prey, though it may be safely averred, that one of these will destroy more game in a season, than 10 shepherds would do, though they were at perfect liberty to kill as many as they could \*.

There are in the parish 1236 head of black cattle, and 290 horses. Cows are worth from 2l. 10s. to 5l., according to the part of the country in which they are bred, these in the glens being of greatest value. Horses cost from 5l. to 15l. Before the introduction of sheep-farming, a great many small horses were reared in the hilly parts of the country; but now most of the horses required in this parish, are bought from Argyleshire, or from the Low Country.

There are about 8000 sheep, besides the usual proportion of lambs and year-olds. These are mostly of the Lammermoor breed. A few of the long English kind, and also of the Cheviot breed, have been introduced; but we have not had

\* There are both black and red game in the parish, ptarmigans, plovers, snipes, partridges, and dotterels. Malards, gulls, and other water fowl come to hatch in the lochs. Birds of passage are, cuckoos, woodcocks, fieldfares, bullfinches, and snowflakes. A few of these last hatch in our highest mountains. Birds that are not reckoned game, birds of prey, or migratory birds, are, rooks, magpies, jays, daws, woodpeckers, ring ouzels, water ouzels (very destructive to the spawn of fish) thrushes, blackbirds, larks of several denominations, linnets, and a great variety of small birds.

had them long enough to give a decided opinion, whether or not they will answer with our pasture. Ewe and lamb sell for 12s. or 14s., 3 year old wethers at about the same price, and younger sheep in proportion. The wool is, in general, coarse, and fetches only between 7s. and 8s. the stone ton; 7, 8, and even 9 fleeces go to the stonewron. What is not manufactured for the use of the inhabitants, of the wool, is sent to Perth, Stirling, and Alloa. Before sheep-farming was introduced, about 30 years ago, we had a small species of sheep with white or reddish faces, and fine wool; but these were considered so much inferior to the black faced kind in the size of the carcase (the only object attended to till of late), that the race is either adulterated or extirpated. Many of the most sensible sheep farmers begin to regret this, as they now perceive that the difference in the value of the wool, and in the great number of the small sheep that might be kept on the same pasture, would more than compensate for the difference in the weight of the carcase. Till the period above mentioned, sheep were considered as of little value in this country. Farmers kept only as many as were sufficient to clothe their families and afford them a little mutton, as there was very little demand for either wool or mutton from other countries. There were besides, several circumstances in the management of sheep that prevented their thriving. They were thought such tender animals, that they could not be left with safety to lie in the open air during the night in winter. Independent of this prejudice, the number of foxes rendered it a necessary precaution to house them at night. The lambs were allowed to come too early in the season before the ewes had any new grass. There was indeed no winter grass reserved for them. From the middle of May they were milked every morning, the lambs being separated from them overnight, till about the end of June, when the lambs were weaned.

ed. This prevented the lambs from ever coming to their full ze. The ewes continued to be milked evening and morning till the end of September, being for most part of that time confined all night in very narrow folds. It is now believed by very judicious farmers, that the old species, with the same treatment, would prove full as hardy as the black-faced kind, and that 5 of them at least might be kept on the same grass that is sufficient for 4 of the other.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population then was 1295. There are at present 1364 souls in the parish, of whom 632 are males, and 720 females.

Below 10 years,	-	315	From 50 to 70,	-	167
From 10 to 20,	-	249	From 70 to 80,	-	45
From 20 to 50,	-	571	From 80 and upwards,	-	27

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Farmers,	-	108	Coopers,	-	-	5
Crofters,	-	50	Weavers,	-	-	24
Cottagers,	-	120	Flaxdressers,	-	-	10
Smiths,	-	3	Woolcombers,	-	-	3
Wrights,	-	10	Tailors,	-	-	6
Wheelwrights,	-	6	* Millers,	-	-	4

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*Rent,*

\* The registers of baptisms and marriages afford little information, by which one can judge of the population of the parish, as a great proportion of both marriages and baptisms are registered in the parishes of Killin and Fortingal, that belong to this parish. There is no register of burials kept, nor would it indeed be easy, as the people in this country do not bury either in the nearest burial ground, nor in that belonging to their parish; but they always endeavour, at whatever distance, to bury with their ancestors. From an average of 20 families, taken at random, the number of children born of each marriage,

*Rent, Heritors, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is 1613l. Scots, the real rent about 1650l. Sterling. The whole parish, except one farm belonging to Mr. Menzies of Cul-dare, is the property of two heritors, the Earl of Breadalbane, and Sir John Menzies of Menzies, Baronet. Sir John Menzies is patron, and has his principal residence at Castle Menzies in this parish, where he resides for a part of the year. It is a handsome edifice built in the form of a castle, with turrets, &c. It was built in the year 1571. The grounds around it were greatly adorned by the late Sir Robert Menzies, with gardens, plantations, and beautiful walks. It is situated under a most beautiful bank, which is covered with trees of various kinds, and is of considerable length and height, having an extensive plain in front towards the south, which is divided into a number of enclosures. Here are likewise 2 orchards, which yield a great quantity of apples, pears, cherries, and the finest of geans both black and red. The Earl of Breadalbane's kitchen garden is also in this parish, and yields a good quantity of fruit of different kinds on the walls and espaliers, and a great variety of vegetables for the table in high perfection.

*Church, Manse, Stipend, School, Poor.*—The church was built, according to an inscription above the door, in the year 1609, and repaired in 1752. When it was first built, and many

is nearly. For, though in the grazing parts of the country there are undoubtedly fewer persons, yet the increase in the lower parts, it is presumed, at least compensates for that decrease. There are no dissenters from the Established Church of any denomination. Servants' wages are increased rapidly for some years past. In the year 1778, a man servant got 3l. and maintenance, who now gets 6l. or 7l.; a maid servant's wages have risen during the same period from 2l. 10s. to 3l. in the year, and all labourers and tradesmen's wages in proportion.

many years afterward, it was fully sufficient to contain all the congregation that assembled to it; but since the knowledge and practice of true religion have been more widely diffused, the church is by much too small for the congregation, especially in the summer months, when at least a fourth of them are obliged to sit without, the windows being thrown open, and a great many old and infirm people obliged to remain at home, who cannot venture to sit in the open air: Two-thirds at least of the congregation are from the parishes of Dull, Logierait, and Fortingal, their own parish churches being at too great a distance. The manse was built in 1744, and had some reparations since, but is still the most inconvenient manse in this country. The glebe is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres arable, of a good light soil, and about an acre of pasture and meadow, besides a garden  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre. The living, exclusive of the glebe, was formerly 36l. 3s. 7d. Sterling in money, and 32 bolls, Linlithgow measure, half oat meal, half bear. Last summer-session (1792) it was augmented to 64 bolls virtual, and 66l. 3s. 7d. money, including communion elements \*.—There is a school maintained by the heritors.

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\* It was usual for the ministers of Weem and Kenmore to officiate, the latter every 5th Sunday, and the former 4 times a-year, at Lawers, on the north side of Loch Tay, where there is a pretty good chapel built by the Earls of Breadalbane. About 2 years ago, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, out of a fund bequeathed them by the late Lady Glenorchy, for the purpose of encouraging religion and industry on the estate of Breadalbane, settled a missionary minister, who officiates alternately at Lawers, on the north side, and at Ardeonaig on the south side of Loch Tay. The Society allow him 20l. a-year, and the Earl of Breadalbane as much, with a house and a piece of land in name of a glebe. This establishment precludes the necessity of the ministers of Weem or Kenmore preaching at Lawers, and the minister of Killin from preaching at Ardeonaig. The ministers of Fortingal and Weem, still officiate in Glenlyon, the former once in 5 or 6 weeks, the latter 5 or 6 times a-year, at a place

The salary was only 6l. 13s. 4d. Sterling, till this year (1793) that the heritors have, of their own free motion, raised it to 11l. 2s. 3*½*d. This, with school-wages, session-clerk's fees, &c. may amount in whole to 24l. There is a good school-house, schoolmaster's dwelling-house, and a small garden \*.—There are few poor in this parish, and they are, for the most part, supported by their own industry, and occasional supplies from the parish funds. There are at present

12 per-

a place about 20 statute miles from the church at Weem. There is a good chapel built there a few years ago, by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of that valley, and some small donations from a few of the neighbouring gentlemen. The inhabitants of Glenlyon, about a fourth of whom are in this parish, have been remarkable for honesty, industry, and sobriety, for many generations, before the surrounding countries were brought to the state of civilization they are in at present. This must be attributed to two concurring causes; 1st, The proprietors of this valley (the Campbells of Glenlyon) were themselves, for many descents, men of great integrity, and encouraged such of their retainers only as were of the same disposition: 2d, A spark of religion was early kindled among them, which being, for a little time, confined to a few families, has long ago diffused itself over the whole valley. The religion of these people is not of the speculative disputation kind, but such as influences the whole of their conduct in their intercourse with mankind.

\* There are likewise 3 other schools supported from a fund of 6000 merks Scots, mortified for that purpose by Mr. Archibald Campbell, first Presbyterian minister of this parish, who was admitted about the year 1703. The interest of that sum only, is employed according to the deed of mortification, for the maintenance of 3 schools in the most remote parts of the parish, i. e. 5l. 11s. 1*½*d. to each of the 3. This sum, at the time it was first given (about the year 1740) was sufficient for supporting a lad to teach for 7 months in the year, which at that time was all that was required, as the people dispersed through the hills with their cattle in the month of May, and the schools did not convene till after the harvest was finished. Since sheep farming was introduced, the people remain at home the whole year, consequently the schools would be of the same consequence in summer as in winter. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, allow one of these schools 5l. a year (that at Roto in Glenlyon) in addition to the former salary, which enables the schoolmaster to teach through the greatest part of the year. These 3 schoolmasters act likewise as catechists.

12 persons, mostly old women, on the poor's list. The funds arise from the Sunday collections, and the rents of a few feasts in the church. The yearly distributions amount to about 24*l.* The weekly collections have greatly decreased of late years; the family of Menzies having resided in the parish only a few months in the year.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Few or none have emigrated beyond seas from this parish; but whole troops of boys and girls go annually to the low country for service, and of late to the cotton-works, many of whom settle there.—There is only one inn in the parish, and five ale-houses, or whisky-houses. These last are very little frequented but at weddings, markets, and other public meetings.—The Gaelic language is that commonly spoken, but English, of the Scottish dialect, is generally understood.—Peats, which are made at a considerable expense, carried from a great distance, and in many places becoming scarce, are the only fuel of this parish. There have never any attempts been made for finding coal, though it is said there are favourable appearances of them in the Earl of Breadalbane's lands. His Lordship has it in contemplation to cause a search to be made. The greatest hindrance to improvement in agriculture, arises from this scarcity and expense of fuel, as thereby the farmers, in many places, are precluded from burning any lime for manure, though the limestone is in great abundance, and the greatest part of the summer, which might be profitably employed in fallowing, draining, enclosing and making different kinds of compost for manure, is entirely spent in casting, drying, and carrying home peats. More horses and carts are likewise destroyed in this work, than by all other farm-labour.—Another great hindrance to agriculture in general, is the want of leases. While a man possesses a farm only

only from year to year, at the will of his landlord (which is the case here) he can have little spirit for improvement, as he is altogether uncertain who is to reap the fruits of his industry.

All the general observations made on the parishes of Dull, Fortingal, Kenmore and Killin, apply also to the parish of Weem, as it is so curiously interwoven with them.

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## NUMBER XIII.

## PARISH OF CULLEN.

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT GRANT.**Royalty, Extent, Climate, &c.*

CULLEN, as appears from old charters, was originally called *Inverculan*, because it stands upon the bank of the Burn of Cullen, which, at the N. end of the town, falls into the sea: but now it is known by the name of Cullen only. Cullen is a royal burgh, formerly a constabulary, of which the Earl of Findlater was hereditary constable. The set, as it is called, of the council, consists of 19, in which number are included the Earl of Findlater, hereditary preses, 3 bailies, a treasurer, a dean-of-guild, and 13 counsellors. The parish extends from the sea southward, about 2 English miles in length, and about 1 mile in breadth. The annexed part of the parish of Rathven, *quoad sacra*, is of extent about 3 miles in length, and 2 in breadth, forming together the figure of a quadrant, having a straight line on the N. and E. and the

the segment of a circle on the W. and S. The face of the country is neither hilly nor flat; in general the fields have an easy gentle slope. The soil is of 3 kinds; the greatest part is a fine rich loam, upon a soft clay bottom; some fields of a strong rich clay, and a few of a light loam, upon a tilly bottom. As the fields in general are dry, and as the hills in the neighbouring parishes of Rathven and Deskford attract the clouds and vapours that arise from the sea, the air of this parish is pure and extremely wholesome; as a proof of this, many of the inhabitants live and enjoy comfortable health, till far past 80, and severals above 90 years. And no local or epidemical distemper has been known to prevail in the memory of any person alive. Even the small-pox, in the natural way, is become mild, and in no proportion so fatal as in former times; but this may be owing to the greater degree of cleanliness among the people, and learning the modern treatment of that loathsome distemper.

*Agriculture.*—The farms are small, from 5 l. to 50 l. of rent, and the fine field about the town is let in small lots, to accommodate the inhabitants. Although the soil is fit to produce any kind of grain, yet the crops generally raised are, oats, barley, pease, beans, turnip, potatoes, sown grass and flax. Flax seems to be a precarious crop upon the east coast of Scotland; the soil and climate are too dry for it, but in a moist season there are good crops. This observation might, perhaps, be worthy the attention of landholders and farmers in moister climates, where crops of corn are more precarious, to encourage the culture of flax; especially as it is an early crop, and fit for pulling before the season of the mildews, so fatal to grain, generally sets in. The average rent of the land is from 10 s. to 2 l. 10 s. the acre. The only plough used here

here is the light Yorkshire plough, commonly drawn by 2 horses.

*Fisheries.*—The sea affords plenty and variety of fishes; haddock, whiting, flounders, mackerel, hollybut, turbot, cod, ling, tusk, skate, dog and cat. The only shell-fish in abundance is crab and lobster, which last are caught in great quantities, and of late sent to the London market. There are two fishing villages, one at the north end of the town of Cullen, where there are 7 fishing boats; and one called Portknockies, 2 miles west of Cullen, in the annexed part of the parish of Rathven, where there are other 7 boats. Each boat has 6 men; by whose industry the town and country around are amply supplied with good fish. Besides what is sold daily, the fishers cure and dry a considerable quantity of cod, ling, skate and haddocks, which, after serving the country, they carry to Montrose, Forfar, Dundee and Leith, where, besides their oil, each man sells at an average, 10 l. value of fish; and they bring home hemp, wool, and salt for their own use.

*Manufactures.*—Before the year 1748, the inhabitants of Cullen were as poor and idle as any set of people in the north. There was no industry, trade, nor manufacture among them: their only employment was to labour a few acres of land, and to keep tippling houses; and often to drink with one another, to consume the beer for want of customers. The late Earl of Findlater, that true patriot, pitying the situation of the people, resolved to introduce the linen manufacture among them. And here, perhaps, it may not be improper to mention the method he adopted to promote this purpose. He brought 2 or 3 gentlemen's sons from Edinburgh, who had been regularly bred there to the business, and who had some patrimony of their own; but, for their encouragement to settle so far

north, he gave to each £60 l. free of interest for seven years; after which, the money was to be repaid by 50 l yearly, the remainder in their hands to be always free of interest. Besides this, he built excellent weaving shops, and furnished every accommodation at very reasonable rates: and as his lordship presided at the Board of Trustees at Edinburgh, he obtained for his young manufacturers, premiums of looms, heckles, reels, and spinning wheels, with a small salary to a spinning mistress. So good a plan, and so great encouragement, could not fail of success. In a few years, the manufacture was established to the extent desired. All the young people were engaged in the business; and even the old found employment in various ways by the manufactures: and thus a spirit of industry was diffused over the place and neighbourhood in a very short time, which soon appeared in their comfortable mode of living, and their dress. The manufacture here, as well as in other places, has had its vicissitudes, owing to good or bad markets and demands; but still it continues on the whole in a comfortable state. There are in this small place 65 looms, constantly employed in weaving linen, some few of them in weaving damask. The manufacturers also give out a great number of webs to be woven by country weavers in their own shops. There are also 7 stocking looms constantly employed.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population then was 900. About 100 years ago, at the average of 7 years, multiplying the baptisms by 26, the number of people in Cullen, and the annexed part of the parish of Rathven, amounted to 806. 60 years since, by the same rule, the number was 1040, but the accuracy of the registers, I am afraid, cannot be depended upon. By a list taken in 1791, the number of souls in the parish of Cullen, and the annexed part

part of the parish of Rathven, amounted to 1739. Of which, in the parish of Cullen 1214; of these, males 559, females 664. In the annexed part of Rathven 595; males 273, females 234. Of the above numbers in Cullen, and the annexed part of Rathven, there are under 7 years of age, males 148, females 115. The increase of the population has been only in the town of Cullen, and in the sea-towns of Cullen and Portknockies; for during the periods of the above average-calculations, there were several farms well peopled, which, after that, were enclosed for the Earl of Findlater's own accommodation, and are since uninhabited. The average of baptisms annually, is about 45, marriages 12. The bulk of the people are of the Established religion. Before the year 1782, there was not one Catholic in the parish, at present there are about 30, and 8 Episcopalians.

*Church, Stipend, School, Charitable foundations, Poor, &c.*  
Cullen seems originally to have been a Chapel of Ease for the accommodation of the people of that corner of the parish of Fordyce, and the contiguous part of Rathven; there were 2 churches or chapels, that of St. Mary and St. Anne; the latter was a prebend. The present church is compounded of the two former; it is very old, not well lighted, and too small for the congregation. The Earl of Findlater and Seafield is patron. The stipend consists of 40 l. 18 s. 10*½* d. in money, including 50 merks for communion elements, 2 chalders of barley and 2 chalders of meal. The glebe consists of 4*½* acres, and some falls; but the minister has no grass, nor any allowance for it. The manse was repaired about 7 years since, at which time there was a complete set of offices built and covered with slates. Lord Findlater is proprietor of the whole parish, except some property belonging to the town-council; one small heritage, consisting of a house, a garden, and an acre

of land, and some few acres mortified for pious uses\*.—There is generally a good school in Cullen, where from 40 to 50 boys are taught Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping; but the schoolmaster's salary is very small: he has only about 6 l. 10 s. a-year, the greatest part of which arises from two pious donations, to be afterward mentioned. There is a pretty good school-house, and a convenient room for the accommodation of the master. School-fees for teaching English 1 s. 6 d., writing and arithmetic 2 s., and for Latin 2s. 6d. the quarter. There is a schoolmistress who has a salary of 5l. for teaching girls to read and sew. And there are generally other two schools, where young children are taught to read English, and are instructed in the principles of Christianity. The Earl of Findlater had a bede-house in the town of Cullen, which accommodated 8 poor men, who had peats allowed them for fuel, and each had 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal yearly. The bede-house being ruinous, was lately taken down; but the Earl allows a house free of rent, and the fuel, to such of the bede-men as incline to possess it, but few of them seem inclined to do it; but the meal is regularly given to poor persons, and sometimes divided between two poor families, which makes it more extensively useful†.—The number of poor re-

ceiving

\* Lord Findlater has his chief seat of residence here, called Cullen house. It is literally founded upon a rock, which is above 50 feet high, almost perpendicular, hanging over the burn of Cullen. The situation of the house is romantically pleasant, having a beautiful prospect to the S., and a fine view of the Moray-firth to the N. To the W. of the house there is an excellent bridge of one arch, cast over the burn, 84 feet wide, and 64 feet high, which makes an easy communication with the park and woods, where the ground admits of endless beauty and variety.

† William Lawrie of Myrehouse, appointed a croft of land, with some houses and a sum of money, with which were purchased some additional acres of land, which pay of yearly rent for behoof of the poor, 10 bolls and an half of barley, and 13s. of money. This foundation is under the management of the heirs of

ceiving alms is 80 ; which is very great, considering the number of the people ; the chief reason of this is, the liberal supplies which they receive from the beneficence of the noble family here, makes them press in from all corners. As there are

the late Rev. Mr. Lawtie of Fordyce, John Lawtie, burgess of Cullen, bequeathed his whole property, consisting of a house, a small garden, and a croft of land for behoof of the poor of Cullen, which pays of yearly rent to the kirk-session, 1 guinea. William Leslie of Birdshank, an heritor in the parish, bequeathed the sum of a 1000 merks Scotch, the interest of which, was to be applied as an encouragement to a schoolmaster in Cullen, under direction of the magistrates of Cullen. This money, by a negotiation of the magistrates, was settled in the hands of the Earl of Findlater, upon his agreeing to make some addition to it, and he thereby is become patron of the school, the magistrates and council paying £L 2s. 4d. 6*12*ths, of a farther addition, which makes the salary in whole 5*12*s. Sterling yearly. A man of the name of Smith, who had a small house, a garden, and a croft of land, left them and the rents of them as an additional encouragement to the schoolmaster of Cullen—the rent of the whole is about £L 10*12*s. yearly. John Lorimer, town-clerk of Cullen, appointed a piece of land, with 1 or 2 houses upon it, for the education of a boy at the school of Cullen, of his own name, or related to him. Besides the rent of the houses, the land paid, in the end of the last century, 6 bolls charitat bear, that is, 6 bolls, 6 pecks barley, yearly. This foundation has been very useful in giving education to a number of the founder's relations; and among others, to a great nephew of his own, Mr. William Lorimer of St. James's parish, London, who out of gratitude for the benefit of his own education upon his great uncle's burse at the school of Cullen, appointed by his last will, a sum of money fit to produce, by interest, £L Sterling yearly, to purchase books for his great uncle's bursar at Cullen; and also, 10*12*s. yearly to the schoolmaster at Cullen, for his attention to said bursar : And further, the said Mr. William Lorimer appointed the interest of 200*12*s. Sterling, for a bursary at the Marischal College of Aberdeen ; and that his great uncle's bursar at Cullen, when found qualified, should enjoy this bursary at the college, with the relations by his mother alternately. Mr. William Lorimer's bursary is under the direction of the masters of Marischal College, and the magistrates and church-session of Cullen. John Watson, merchant in Edinburgh, appointed the interest of 1000 merks Scotch, for assisting in the education of a boy at the school of Cullen, related to himself by father or mother; also, the interest of 100*12*s. Scotch, to be paid to the master of the school of Cullen for the boy's education. Collector John Ogilvie of

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are no poor's rates, the only ordinary supplies arise from the weekly collections at the church, with the interest of some settled money, amounting in whole to about 35 l. a-year: out of which the session-clerk and officers fees are paid. This would be by no means an adequate supply for such a number of poor, if Lord Findlater did not only give 10 bolls and a firkin of meal yearly to be distributed by the church session, but also appoint supplies of meal and money for all their exigencies, which makes their state here better than anywhere else in the neighbourhood \*.

*Woods.*—It may not be improper from Cullen, the principal seat of the Earl of Findlater and Seafield, to take a general view of the immense plantations of trees made by that family. Before the year 1744, little in that way was done. The whole country, and even about Cullen house, was naked and destitute of cover or ornament from trees. Since the above period, it appears by attested lists before the writer, that the Earls of Findlater have planted upwards of 8000 Scotch

the customs at Inverness, and his son bailie William Ogilvie, merchant in Banff, bequeathed the sum of 44 l. 9s. Sterling, the interest of which is to be applied by the church-session of Cullen, for behoof of their poor relations, and the poor of the parish in equal parts. James Ogilvie, formerly wadsetter of Logie, bequeathed for behoof of the poor of the parish of Cullen, the sum of 300 merks Scotch.

\* Although the whole produce of grain in the parish is never sufficient for the consumpt of the people, yet meal is always here in as great plenty, and as good in quality, and as cheap, as in any part of Scotland; owing to the attention of Lord Findlater and his managers. 20 or 30 years since, eggs sold 1*4* for a penny, now they are 2*d.* for 1*s.* Hens, which were sold for 4*d.* each, now give 7*d.* and 8*d.* Beef and mutton, which used to sell from 1*d.* to 2*d.* the pound, now sell from 2*½ d.* to 4*d.* the pound. Haddock, which were from 1*d.* to 2*d.* the dozen, sell now at 7*d.* and 8*d.* the dozen, and other articles in proportion. The price of labour is rising so fast, that it may be said not to be settled at present.

kotch acres, about Cullen, and in their other estates in the counties of Banff and Moray; and, if we allow 4000 plants, as usual, for every Scotch acre, the number originally planted, will exceed the amazing sum of 32,000,000 of trees. All these plantations, which at first were generally planted with common firs, have been, with great care and attention, properly filled up with larch, and great variety of hard wood plants, suited to the different soils; and all this upon ground which never returned one farthing of rent to the proprietor.

For the encouragement of those who have waste ground fit for planting, I shall beg leave to quote the following curious paragraph, from an account before me, attested by Mr. George Brown, surveyor of land at Elgin, and factor to Lord Findlater there. "To show in some degree the value of Lord Findlater's plantations, and the very rapid progress they make in this country near Elgin, there was a good deal cut out of one plantation of common firs, to make room for more valuable and useful trees; many of those cut out measured of girth 2 feet 10 inches and 3 feet, and sold at 3d. Sterling the tree, and, in general, when fawn down the middle, are large enough for paling and other uses. This is a singular instance of wood only planted 18 years, and shows the great wealth that will accumulate from those plantations."

*MOUNTAINS.*—There is only one remarkable mountain called the Bin-Mill; it has two tops, the one higher than the other, it lies about a mile S. W. of the town of Cullen, about two miles from the sea, and serves as a land-mark to the fishers. Its elevation above the sea is said to be from 1000 to 1100 feet. It was formerly covered with heath, but is now planted with trees.

*Character of the People.*—The people, in general, are sober and

and industrious. They enjoy a reasonable share of the comforts of life, and seem strongly attached to the place of their abode. They have long been remarkable for their charitable disposition, not only to their poor neighbours, but also to strangers. They live peaceably with one another. In proof of this, although they have town-courts at their door, and the sheriff-court within 8 miles of them, there is hardly such a thing as a law-suit heard of among them.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The town of Cullen, by its situation, has many advantages. It lies on the post road, which is kept in good repair. It has, in general, good schools. It has the advantage and accommodation of a post-office, a pretty good butcher market, plenty of all the necessaries of life supplied from a rich country, on the one hand, and an ample supply of all kinds of fish from the sea, on the other, with command of plenty of moss for fuel. The disadvantages are, a scanty supply of good water. There is not a good spring in the parish of Cullen but one, and that lies without the town. To the burn of Cullen, there is access only at two places, and there the roads are so steep, that it is difficult to carry up water. The only supply, is a cistern in the centre of the town, where water is brought in leaden pipes from the annexed part of the parish of Rathven. To accommodate the town properly, they would need at least other two cisterns. The houses, in general, though cheap rented, are mean and bad; and most of them being placed with their ends to the street, it offends the eye of the traveller. If Lord Findlater were either to lock up his moles, or to alter the roads, and thereby render them more distant, the inhabitants would soon be obliged to remove; except his Lordship were pleased to make a harbour for ships to bring coal, which would be far preferable to their present fuel. If

it were agreeable to his Lordship to erect better houses, and to build a harbour at the shore, which it is believed, would not be attended with a great expense, Cullen would perhaps be one of the most comfortable and convenient places in the north of Scotland to lie in.

*Antiquities.*—At the north end of the town of Cullen, there is a beautiful green hill, called the Castle-hill, hanging over the sea, which before the use of cannon, was extremely well situated for a place of strength, being inaccessible from the north by an almost perpendicular high rock, and having a deep ditch in all other directions for its defence. There is no record concerning it, when, or by whom built, or when destroyed; but it is evident from the calcined stones dug every where, that it has been destroyed by fire. And the only tradition concerning it is, that the town of Cullen lay at the east side of it, and when an enemy appeared, the inhabitants carried their most valuable effects into the castle for protection; but when the castle was burned, that the inhabitants removed to the present situation of the town, to be under the protection of the constable at Cullen house, the residence of the Earl of Findlater. Near Cullen house, there is the vestige of a house, in which, it is said, Queen Elizabeth, Queen of King Robert Bruce died. In the annexed part of the parish of Rathven, there is the ruin of a chapel at Farikane, upon the sea bank, which is supposed to have been a Chapel of Ease in the parish of Rathven, and worship was probably performed there by the clergymen from Cullen.

\* *Royal Deaths.*—It is somewhat curious, that so far  
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\* With regard to the death of Indulfus, there is no doubt. The accounts given of it by Buchanan, and Abercrombie in his *Martial Achievements*, agree perfectly

north as Cullen, in Lord Findlater's estate, a King and Queen of Scotland should have died, namely, King Indulfus,

perfectly with the then situation of the country: That the King having prevented the Danes from landing at the Frith of Forth, at the Tay, and Aberdeen, upon being informed that they had unexpectedly landed at Cullen, hastened forward with his army, attacked and totally routed them, and made them fly to their ships; but hearing that there still remained a small body of them together at the side of a wood, he rashly rushed forward with a handful of men, and attacked them, where he fell fighting valiantly in defence of the liberty of his country. Upon the place where the King fell, there was, as usual, a huge cairn of stones collected, which, to this day, is called the King's Cairn. It lies a mile west from Cullen house, in the annexed part of the parish of Rathven. The ground which was formerly an open moor fit for a field of battle, is now covered with fine trees, and around the cairn there are about 3 acres of ground enclosed, and used as a nursery for raising young trees. A great many of the stones of the cairn were used for this enclosure, but the remainder of the cairn is as yet very distinct. Whether the body of King Indulfus was buried under this cairn, or whether, according to the *Scoti-chronicon*, it was carried to the Island of Calumb Kill or Jona, I shall not pretend to judge; but it would certainly be worth while to examine the bottom of the cairn, to know whether there is any urn or stone coffin in it, according to the custom of our ancestors in those days. With regard to the death of Queen Elizabeth, the writer asserts nothing positively; but he thinks it proper to mention the circumstances that have come to his knowledge, which at least make the matter appear probable. In the 1<sup>st</sup> place, The tradition mentioned above, concerning the house in which Queen Elizabeth is said to have died, is very distinct in the place. But what tends to confirm this; 2<sup>dly</sup>, From the charter of the town of Cullen, a copy of which is before the writer, it appears, "That Robert of Bruce, King of the Scotch, granted and gave in gift for ever, 5*l.* of the money of the kingdom (that is, 8*s.* and 4*d.* Sterling) for the support of a chaplain in the parish church of the blessed Mary of our burgh of Cullen, always to pray for the salvation of the soul of the most serene Princess Queen Elizabeth, consort of the same King Robert." And, 3<sup>dly</sup>, There is a tradition that Queen Elizabeth's bowels are interred, that is, buried in our Lady Kirk of Cullen. Now, it may be asked, if the Queen had not died in Cullen, what could have given rise to these distinct traditions, and particularly, why would her husband have endowed a chaplain to pray for the salvation of her soul in the church of Cullen? But the great question is, what could have brought Queen Elizabeth to Cullen? The most probable

fus, and Queen Elizabeth, second Queen of King Robert Bruce.

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probable answer to this is, that as she had a daughter married to the then Earl of Sutherland, she had come upon a visit to her daughter. And as the family of Sutherland had then considerable property in the Boyn and Enzie, probably some friend of that family lived in this house, where the Queen is said to have died. Whether the burying her bowels in the church implies the burial of the whole body, or whether the bowels only were interred in Cullen, I shall not take upon me to determine; but I never heard of any other place for her interment.

## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF OLICK.

(COUNTY OF CAITHNESS, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS, PRESBYTERY OF CAITHNESS.)

*By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE MACKENZIE.*

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*Name, Extent, General Appearance, &c.*

OLICK is unquestionably of Norwegian derivation. It may be interpreted, "the son of Erick," in allusion to an establishment made by some illustrious chief of that name on this part of the coast. This invasion, which seems to have been general along the E. and N. of Caithness, is supposed to have taken place about the end of the 8th, or the beginning of the 9th century. The length of the parish from N. W. to S. E. may be reckoned 4 measured miles; and its breadth, at a medium, 2, or somewhat less. The parish may be said to be neither mountainous nor plain. The uncultivated parts are wholly green, and equally clear both of heath and rock. In the southern parts of it, a number of green tumuli, or little hills,

hills, form themselves into the shape of three extended amphitheatres, intersected by a multiplicity of vallies and rivulets, affording the most luxuriant pasture for cattle in the summer months, and natural hay for their support in winter. Towards the sea, the whole is one continued track of rich cultivated soil. Moss is not very abundant in the parish; and the want of good peat-fuel may be reckoned one of the greatest inconveniences which the inhabitants labour under. Along the sea-coast, and towards the rising grounds, the air is pure and healthy; but from the swamps abounding in the hollows, and the insalubrious vapours they emit, all the complaints arising from obstructed perspiration, are not unfrequent among the inhabitants. It is much to be regretted, that greater exertions are not made for the draining of these marshes; for, independent of the influence of such operations in meliorating the air and climate, and thereby consulting the health of the people, the marl to be found in them for the purposes of agriculture, would amply compensate the expense of the work. The loch of Duran, in particular, calls for an exertion of this sort; it is the only one in the parish, and is nearly 3 miles in circumference; a part of it was drained some years ago, by a former proprietor, and bog-hay, as it is called, now grows in great abundance, where pool and putrefaction heretofore prevailed. The outlet to the sea is of easy operation; and by continued exertions, it is not to be doubted but this expanse of water might, in a few years, be reduced to a small rivulet, and the soil it now occupies rendered as productive as any part of the parish.

*Soil and Produce.—*The soil, in general, along the coast, and in the flat parts of the parish, is a deep clay, with here and there a little intermixture of sand and till. Remote from the coast, the soil is lighter, and less productive, and more cal-  
culated

culated for pasture than cropping. The staple produce of the parish is bear, oats, and potatoes. Flax heretofore was raised, though but in small quantities, from the extreme difficulty of manufacturing it through the want of mills. As this inconvenience is now completely remedied, and as the soil is naturally favourable to the rearing of this valuable article, it is expected, from the industry of the inhabitants, and the encouragement and countenance they daily meet with from one of the principal proprietors \*, that this branch of husbandry will soon turn to a very great account in this place.

The oats in this parish are in such estimation, as to be bought for seed throughout the country; a distinction solely owing to the quality of the soil, which is peculiarly adapted to this species of grain. The bear is also comparatively good, weighing from 16 to 18 stone the boll. The whole produce of the parish may be at least reckoned 7000 bolls meal and bear, and the average export about 4000 bolls. Marl and sea-weed are chiefly used as manures, and are found in great abundance, and without much expense of labour.

*Agriculture.*—There are perhaps few parishes in the N. which have of late made more commendable exertions in agricultural improvements, than the parish of Olrick. On the estate of Castlehill, the property of Mr. Traill, a rotation of crops among the tenantry begins to prevail. The following is an account of the improvements made on a small farm on this estate, occupied by one Donald Coghill. The rent of the farm is 20 l. Sterling. In spring 1791, he laid down 3½ acres under rye-grafs and clover, from which he raised 800 stone

\* The gentleman here alluded to, is Mr. Traill of Hobbester, sheriff-depute of the county, who has lately got erected a lint-mill, a barley-mill, and corn-mill of the best construction, and has also a threshing-machine, all excepting the lint-mill, moved by one wheel, and driven by the same stream.

stone weight of hay in autumn 1792, which he could have sold on the field for 6d. the stone weight. In spring 1792, he laid down under rye-grass and clover, 3 acres; under turnip,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an acre; under potatoes, 1 acre, and had 2 acres in fallow. From the advantages already reaped, he is determined to persevere in this mode of managing his farm; and others are preparing to follow his example. Draining, ditching, and enclosing are carried on with spirit in this part of the parish; this is entirely owing to the granting of such leases as give the farmer the prospect of enjoying the fruits of his industry: Besides, the proprietor acts in every respect more as the father than master of the people under him. He farms himself to a large extent; and his returns are answerable to his attention and industry. Another farm on his estate, occupied by Mr. Jolly, minister of Dunnet, is in a state equally flourishing and respectable with his own. Mr. Traill has also made, and is now making very laudable exertions in plantations, on a sheltered part of his estate, nor, as yet, has he any reason to repent of his attention to this important object.

It is unnecessary to descend to much minuteness as to live stock, when it can be asserted with truth, that the black cattle reared in the parish are not adequate to the culture of the soil. As to horses, an import above what are reared, is necessary every year. The number of sheep, valuable neither for their wool nor flesh, may be from 1200 to 1500. There is a great number of swine reared, of a small size, but peculiarly delicate, when well fattened; they are generally bought up by butchers in the parish, and sold in the weekly market at Thurso. The real rent of the parish is about 900 l. Sterling.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then was 875. The number of inhabitants at

at present, is precisely 1001, of which 464 are males, and 537 females. There is nothing noticeable as to their longevity; nor does it appear that they have been much on the increase or decrease for a number of years back.

*MARRIAGES, BIRTHS and DEATHS, for the last 7 years.*

	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
1786	3	30	16
1787	6	29	14
1788	5	16	4
1789	4	23	6
1790	7	32	8
1791	9	21	12

The inhabitants are, in general, a sober, civilized, industrious, honest people, and regular attendants on divine worship. Theft may be said to be unknown among them; a few, and but a few, from particular modes of living, are somewhat addicted to excess in drinking.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, School, Poor.*—The religion is that of the Established Church, with a few Seceders, who attend a preacher of that persuasion in the town of Thurso. These, in number, are not above 12, and are nowise noisy nor uncharitable in the support or propagation of their own tenets. Unless it be that notions of witchcraft are not wholly eradicated from the minds of some weak and ignorant persons, superstition of any sort has little or no hold of them. The kirk seems to have been built in 1633; it has been frequently repaired since, and will, in a very short time, require another considerable repair, or be built anew. The manse and offices are entirely new, and fully adequate to the minister's accommodation.

modation. The stipend principally consists of victual, and may be reckoned worth 68 l. Sterling, besides a glebe of 8 acres land of tolerably good soil. Miss Scott of Scotstarvet is patroness.—There is a parochial school in the place, with a salary of 9 l. Sterling, besides clerk fees, school dues, and parish emoluments. There are some private schools in the remote corners of the parish, supported by the people, whose children are unable to travel to the parish school. There are no society schools in the place.—There are no session funds for the support of the poor, excepting the Sunday's collections, which may amount to 8 l. Sterling a-year; yet from the charitable disposition of the people, the poor, though sometimes numerous, are not left a prey to the hardships of their lot.

*Maritime History of the Parish.*—The line of coast belonging to this parish, beginning at Stangerel, and ending a little beyond the house of Murkle, is not more than 2 English miles from E. to W. The coast is rugged and shelvy, but not bold. At the extremities of this line are the Bays of Dunnet and Murkle (the latter of which belongs wholly to this parish), and are the receptacles of the greatest abundance of sea-ware in the winter and spring months. From 15 to 20 tons of kelp are made yearly. Considerable quantities of fish are caught in these bays. In some years 10,000 cod and ling have been dried in the course of one summer at Murkle; and between 70 and 80 barrels of mud-fish have been caught in the winter season. Every other species of fish peculiar to the country, abounds there. The bay of Murkle merits a particular description in the maritime account of this parish. It is believed, that, were it better known, it would be in higher estimation, and more frequented by seafaring people, from the shelter it can now afford, and the additional shelter it might, at no great expense be made to afford to vessels in distress, or

retarded in their progress, by wind or tide. Murkle Bay is, in fact, within the Bay of Dunnet, and is, on that account, possessed of additional tranquillity, from its connexion with the latter, and farther removed from their stormy associate, the Pentland Frith, with which both are connected. In Dunnet Bay, however, besides the anchoring ground, the pressure of both wind and sea into it, is often so great, that a vessel runs the risk of unavoidable destruction, by entering it. In Murkle Bay, the anchoring ground is a blue tenacious clay, and has the character from seamen of being as good as is to be found in most places. The bay extends inland from Dunnet Bay about 2000 yards ; its breadth across is about 3500 yards. At full sea it is not less than 5 fathom deep, where vessels anchor, and at low water about 4 fathom ; from the shelter it now receives from Holburnhead on the W., and from Dunnethhead on the N., it is believed to be calmer in a storm than any part of the whole coast. A pier, in consequence of the immediate vicinity of a quarry, and all requisite materials, might be constructed at no considerable expense. On these accounts, it is recommended to the particular notice and consideration of the friends of navigation, and lovers of their country, that the subject may be further examined, and the truth known.

*Minerals.*—Limestone and freestone, grey slates of a light durable kind, and blue flags, abound in this parish. The flags are uncommonly good, are from 1 to 6 inches thick, and may be raised of almost any extent of superficies : they bear fire, and, from trials already made, are said to be capable of receiving a polish little inferior to marble. Considerable quantities of these flags have lately been sent to Aberdeen, and they have been found to answer the different purposes for which they were intended so well, that several cargoes of them

them are to be shipped from Castlehill, for that place, in the course of summer 1793.

*Heritors, and Places of Chief Note.*—The number of heritors is 4, Sir Robert Sinclair of Murkle, Mr. Traill, Captain Patrick Sinclair of the Royal Navy, and Mr. Smith of Olrick. Castlehill, the residence of Mr. Traill, has its name from an old castle, of which scarcely a vestige is now discernible. Murkle is believed to have been originally Mort-Hill, or the Field of Death, in allusion to a great battle fought between the Danes and natives, in which the latter were victorious. It is also added, that the Scottish chief, on seeing a large hollow at the head of Murkle Bay filled with the enemy, called out to his troops to clear the den, which they did with such havock of their invaders, that the place got the name of Clear-Den or Clairden, which it bears till this day.

*Antiquities.*—Picts houses are frequent in different parts of the parish; their number may amount to 6 or 7. On the top of the hill of Olrick, there are evident vestiges of a watch-tower. From the top of this hill, though of no considerable elevation, there is a commanding prospect of the coast and country: From this spot, owing to the champaign situation of the country, the bays of Sandside, Scrabster, and Murkle Dunnet Head, and the hills of Canisbay, the bays of Freswick and Ries, and the castle of Old Wick, all in Caithness, and some of the south islands in Orkney, and some of the mountainous parts of Sutherland, Strathnaver, Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen shires, are under view.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—From the rising prosperity of the tenantry on the estate of Castlehill, owing solely to the

humane and judicious conduct of the proprietor, it were greatly to be wished that the other heritors, and every heritor in Caithness, would adopt similar measures for the improvement of their estates, and the happiness of their people. While short leases and feudal servitudes prevail, they must operate as an insurmountable bar to every species of civilization and improvement. It is now in contemplation to introduce some little branches of manufacture on the estate of Castlehill, which, if got effected, will be of essential benefit to this parish and beyond it.

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## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF ST. VIGEANS.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNs, PRESBYTERY OF ABERBROTHOCK.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN AITKIN.*

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*Name, Church.*

THE parish of St. Vigeans has, according to tradition, received its name from a reputed Saint, who is said to have lived before, or during the 12th century; for, in that century the church was built, about the time, or soon after the erection of the abbey of Aberbrothock\*. The church

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\* The plan of the abbey and church of St. Vigeans, is said to have been drawn by the same architect, whose grave is shown to strangers in this church-yard. The above mentioned Saint, is said to have resided, for some time, about 3 miles from the place where the church stands, at a farm called Grange of Conan, where the vestiges of his chapel still remain, 23 feet long, by 15 broad. A few yards from the chapel, there are 3 or 4 acres of good land formerly belonging to it, but long since become the property of 1 of the heritors of the parish. The present proprietor, some years ago, enclosed a few falls of ground

is built in the form of a cathedral, 60 feet long, by 54 over walls, on a small mount, the top of which is about 40 feet above the level of the circumjacent ground. The summit of the mount is of an elliptical form; the greatest diameter going from S. to N., and the length of the church being from E. to W., there are only about 8 feet at each corner more than is sufficient to contain the foundation of the fabric. The ascent on the W. N. and E. sides of the mount, is exceedingly steep \*.

*Extent, Surface, Produce, Rent, &c.*—Formerly the extent of this parish was considerably larger than it is at present. The town and abbey of Arbroath belonged to it, till about the year 1560, when Arbroath became a distinct parish. But as no legal division was ever made, the boundaries of the 2 parishes cannot be exactly ascertained †. The boundaries of what is now reckoned the parish, may be described

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ground round the vestiges of the chapel, with a stone fence, and planted it. Within a few yards of the chapel, there is one of the most copious springs of excellent water, in this country, called to this day St. Vigean's well.

\* The mount seems to be partly natural and partly artificial; for, on the S. side, when graves are digged, rock appears about 3 feet below the surface; but on the N. side, there is fine mould for several feet deep. There is not, perhaps, in Scotland, a church so remarkably situated. The small river Brothock, from which the neighbouring burgh has its name, runs within a few feet of the E. side of the church-yard, and is said to signify the "muddy stream," as it runs a great part of its course on a muddy and clay bottom. The church is an English mile distant from Arbroath northward.

† Perhaps it may be proper to observe, as an uncommon thing, that the S. side of the church of Arbroath, for about 10 feet at the E. end, and a few feet on the W., stands in this parish, and not many years ago, the minister and schoolmaster of Arbroath resided in it. The estate of Guynd, in the parish of Carmylie, about 5 miles from St. Vigeans, belonged also to this parish, as appears from writings belonging to that family, but when it was disjoined, is not now known.

as follows : The west end of it borders on the sea for about 3 miles from the town of Arbroath, to about a quarter of a mile beyond the fisher town of Auchmithy. For about a mile east of Arbroath, the coast is flat, with a sandy beach ; but within flood-mark, the bottom consists of ribbed rocks, visible only at low water. At the end of this extended plain, the coast rises abruptly, and becomes high, bold, and rocky, being the western extremity of the *rubrum promontorium*, or Red Head, which extends to about 3 miles beyond the limits of the parish. From the point beyond Auchmithy, to the N. W. corner of the parish, the length is about 7 miles, bordering for about 6 miles on the parish of Inverkeillor, and 1 mile on the parish of Carmylie. From the N. W. point to the S. W. corner, it is about 3 miles along the confines of the last mentioned parish. From the S. W. point to the E., the length is about 3 miles, lying on the N. side of the parish of Arbirlot, and a part of the country parish of Arbroath. But this last line is not so regular as those on the other sides \*.

The parish, properly so called, is divided into nearly 2 equal parts, E. and W., by the small river Brothock. The E. side is by far the best soil, and the most favourable climate, and consequently the most fruitful. From the river Brothock, the ground rises gently for a mile towards the E., to the top of a hill called Dirkmountlaw, and afterward slopes in the same gradual manner towards the sea, where the coast is about 100 feet above the level of the water. On the

W. side,

\* Besides the extent comprehended within the above limits, there are 2 estates entirely detached from this part of the parish, and also from one another. One called Hospitalfield, so called from being the place where the hospital for the sick of the Abbey of Arbroath stood, lying a mile W. from the burgh, and divided from this parish by the burgh roads of said town. The other estate, called Inverpeffor, lies about 4 miles from St. Vigeans, was formerly the seat of the Fletchers, now of Salton, and purchased by the family of Panmuir some time in the last century.

W. side, the ground rises still more gradually for about 3 miles westward, till it reaches the summit of Grange of Conan hill, where the parish borders on Carmylie. The rest of the parish may be said to be pretty flat, with a few gentle elevations in different places.

There is no map of the parish; but by a pretty exact investigation, aided by information from the proprietors and farmers, it is found to contain about 9385 Scotch acres, including the 2 detached estates above mentioned; 8355 acres of which are arable, of which 2334 acres are enclosed, the greater part with ditch, and the rest with hedge and ditch; 1359 acres enclosed with stone fences; 250 acres planted, chiefly with Scotch firs; 780 acres of moor, of which there are above 300 acres under improvement already, and more will soon be taken in for cultivation; and, it is thought, that in a few years there will be no moor remaining in the parish. The number of enclosed acres will appear more surprising, when it is observed, that in the year 1754, there were not 40 acres, gardens excepted, enclosed in the parish.

There are, in the parish, 138 carts, 300 horses, 132 ploughs, 1633 black cattle, 510 sheep, a few of which are of English breed, and 30 swine. There are about 127 bolls of pease sown yearly in the parish; 140 bolls wheat; 976 bolls barley and common bear; 1578 bolls of oats. The yearly returns, at an average, may be 9 of wheat, 5 or 6 of oats, and 7 or 8 of barley. But perhaps this calculation may be rather high for the W. side of the parish; but, it is thought, the E. side will make up the deficiency. The valued rent of the parish is 8299l. 6s. 8d. Scots, which is the highest valuation of a country parish in this county, and the real rent about 6000 guineas; the number of proprietors about 40; the feuars some hundreds. The highest valuation of any heritor is 1200l. Scots, and the lowest 2l. Scots. Ten heritors re-

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side in the parish. One heritor keeps a 2 wheeled carriage; but there is not a 4 wheeled chaise belonging to any heritor residing. Most of the estates in this parish belonged formerly to the Abbacy of Arbroath, and were sold by Cardinal Beaton.

**Soil, &c.**—The soil, as may be supposed in such an extent, varies very much. In some parts of the parish, it consists of fine loam of a brownish colour, many inches deep; lying, in some places, on clay, in others, on a sandy bottom; coarse gravel, or sand and clay intermixed. In others, it consists of a black insipid loam on clay; and this clay, in some places, is so compact and impenetrable, that by the rain-water lying on or near the surface, a great part of the winter, the manure laid on it is much weakened; and, in some seasons, fails considerably of its effect. This last, is the case with what has been formerly moor, and not so early brought into cultivation as other parts of the parish. There is, in some places of the parish, very fine soil, and pretty deep, lying on extensive beds of stone. There is, in general, a large extent of good soil, capable of producing any crop raised in Scotland; and also, a considerable quantity of ground that will require no little attention and industry from the farmer, before it can repay the expense bestowed upon it. But the spirit of industry that has of late pervaded almost the whole heritors and tenants here, has produced an amazing alteration upon the soil, surface, and appearance of the parish; so that in many farms, there is not a single acre uncultivated; and if the same spirit shall continue; it is supposed, that in a few years the whole extent of the parish will be under cultivation. It is generally allowed here, that the raising of the rents in this district, has, among other causes, contributed to the activity, attention, and industry of the farmers, who have

of late been roused from that torpid state and insignificant rank they formerly held in society, and are become, in this part of the country, an acute, sensible, and intelligent set of men, capable of conversing, and being in company with persons of superior rank, and able to give advice and instruction to those who wish to apply themselves to the cultivation of the country. Considering the small advantages, which many of them enjoy, for the improvement of their minds, it may be questioned, if there is any rank of men in society that has so rapidly emerged from ignorance, inattention to business, and rudeness of manners, as they have done in a few years; and by consequence they have become entitled to all the esteem and encouragement that is in the power of the landed interest to confer upon them; for, on their skill and labour, under providence, the very existence of society depends.

In some estates in this parish, a variety of services are required, such as ploughing, reaping, making hay, carrying coals from Arbroath, kain fowls, &c.; in other estates no kind of services are demanded. There are but a few farms that are exempted from abstraction to mills; the multures payable to some mills are high, to others moderate. There are 4 meal mills, 1 flour mill, 2 barley mills, 2 malt mills, 1 mill for washing yarn, 1 mill with 8 stamps for beating yarn when dry, and 1 waulk mill, all going by water. There is a bleachfield, where about 1000 spindles of yarn, and about 5500 yards of linen are bleached annually.

*Village of Auchmithy.*—Auchmithy is a small village situated about 3 miles eastward from the church, on ground elevated about 100 feet above the level of the sea, the descent to which is rough, steep, and rocky. It contains 180 people of all ages. The men are generally employed in fishing.

They

They have 6 boats, value about 120l., with 5 or 6 men to each boat. The people of that place are become sober and industrious, and much civilized in their manners within 30 years past. They find a ready market for their fish in the neighbouring district, but especially in the town of Arbroath, which alone would consume ten times the quantity they catch \*. There is no harbour at Auchmithy, and from the number of rocks lying near the place where the boats land, it would be very difficult and expensive to make one. When the boats come in from fishing, they are drawn out on the beach above reach of high water. The value of what they call great lines, is about 1l. 5s. Sterling, and of the small lines half-a-guinea, and their creels for catching lobsters 2s. In 1792, there were about 16,000 lobsters taken there, at 3d. a-piece, the whole of which almost were sent to London. The property of the village belongs to the Earl of Northesk, who allows ground to the fishers for houses, at the yearly rent of from 1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. the house. The fishers build their houses on their own expenses. His Lordship draws the tithes of the fish, which are just now let at 4l. 10s. Sterling a-year, and 7 years ago at 8l. The fishing at that place appears to have been in a declining state for some years past. The Earl of Northesk has lately caused a cart road to be made from the village down to the beach, about 12 or 14 feet wide, for the

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conveniency

\* The fish on this part of the coast, are cod, ling, skate, mackerel, hollybut, here called turbot, sea-dog, some turbot, called bannakfluke, and haddocks, few of which have been got here for the last 4 years; whitings and flounders are taken, lobsters also, and crabs in great plenty; vast numbers of seals formerly frequented the rocks along this coast, lying in hundreds together, but few of them have been observed for some time past. For some years, the price of fish has risen here very much. In 1754, and several years afterward, haddocks sold here for 2d. 3d. and 4d. the dozen, of late, they have cost 10d. and 1s. a-piece, and sometimes considerably higher. The price of other kinds of fish is still moderate.

conveniency of the inhabitants, though it is reckoned rather steep for a carriage \*. In Auchmithy, as perhaps in most fishing villages, the accent of the inhabitants differs remarkably from that of their neighbours, even to such a degree, that the writer of this can easily distinguish the voice of any person belonging to that village, though speaking in a different room.

*Stipend, School, &c.—* The stipend, by a decree as old as the year 1635, is 11 bolls and 1 firlot of wheat, 47 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck, 3 lippies, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a lippie of bear, and 80 bolls and 1 firlot meal, at 7 stones the boll, equal to 70 bolls, 3 firlots, and 2 lippies, at 8 stones the boll, and 7l. 17s. 11*½*d. Sterling vicarage; but there is no allowance in the decree for the expenses of communion elements †. The church contains

\* This place was burnt down by some fishermen in the end of the last century. In digging the floor of a house in Auchmithy, a few years ago, in order to erect a partition wall, 33 coins were found in a small earthen pitcher, some of Henry IV. of France, others of several German Princes, the rest of Charles II. and William the III. Some of the pieces were of a square form. About 18 miles southward from Auchmithy, in the German ocean, there is a large rock about half an English mile long, and one quarter broad, visible at low water, where large cod are caught. Tradition relates, that in the last century there was a bell erected there on pillars of wood, and a machine so contrived, as to make the bell ring with little wind; that a Dutch master of a ship removed the bell, and that the next time he visited the place, his ship was wrecked.

† The decree makes the teinds payable *ipsa corpora*, and it is not known when the above conversion was made. At the date of the decree, James Marquis of Hamilton is mentioned as titular of the teinds of the said parochine, and the stipend is said to be given in full contentment and satisfaction to the said minister and his successors, of any further provision which they, or either of them, might claim thereafter, from Patrick Archbishop of Glasgow, out of the pension granted to him out of the rents of the Abbey of Aberbrothock. This was Patrick Lindsay, of the family of Edzell, in this county, who was settled minister

tains about 1000 people, but now not half sufficient for the accommodation of the greatly increased number of parishioners. The glebe, of about 6 acres, is one of the worst in the county; the manse was built in 1663, has been several times

minister of St. Vigeans in 1614, was deposed by the Assembly in 1638, and is said to have died at Newcastle in 1644. It may be proper to mention, as perhaps a singular case, that a part of the stipend, amounting to 36 bolls of victual of different kinds, out of an estate in the parish, is mentioned in the reddendo of the proprietor's charter from the Crown, as payable by him to the minister of St. Vigeans.

† *Patronage of the Parish.*—The patronage of the church belongs to the Crown, and is one of 34 that were in the gift of the Abbacy of Arbroath. All these devolved to the Crown at the Reformation, and, it is said, were afterward gifted to the family of Dysart, and were bought from that family in the last century by Patrick first Earl of Panmuir, and forfeited to the Crown, along with the estate, in 1715, by James Earl of Panmuir; the estate was sold by the Crown in 1717, to the York-building Company, but the Crown retained the patronages. In the times of Popery, public worship was generally performed in the church of St. Vigeans, by a Monk sent out from the Abbey, who was allowed the vicarage-tithes, which were then paid *ipso corpora*, for his salary. The Abbots reserved to themselves the parsonage-tithes; and this custom, it is said, prevailed in all the churches belonging to the Abbacy. Tradition relates, that the last Monk who officiated here, was one of the name of Turnbull; and in the year 1754, part of the floors of 2 rooms in the steeple, said to be possessed by him, remained. He is said to have been frightened from his chambers by the devil appearing to him in the shape of a rat; and no Monk after him would be persuaded to reside in the steeple. Such was the ignorance that prevailed in these times. But this foolish conduct of the Monk will not, perhaps, appear in such a contemptible light, when the following more recent instance of ignorance, credulity and superstition, is attended to. From the year 1699 to 1736, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper had never been dispensed in this church. A tradition had long prevailed here, that the water-kelpy (what Mr. Hume, in his tragedy of Douglas, calls "the angry spirit of the water") carried the stones for building the church; that the foundation of it was supported upon large bars of iron; and that under the fabric there was a lake of great depth. As the administration of the sacrament had been so long delayed, the people had brought themselves to believe, that the first time that ordinance should be dispensed, the church would sink, and the whole people would be carried down and drowned in

times repaired, and is now much decayed.—The schoolmaster's house is slated, consists of 4 rooms and 2 closets; and there is also a school-house of 38 feet long, lately built by contribution. The salary is 100 l. Scots, which, with the dues arising from his office of session-clerk, and from marriages, baptisms, &c. makes his living worth 30 l. Sterling. He has also a small garden. The scholars are generally about 50 or 60, some of whom are boarded in the schoolmaster's house. The fees for reading English are 1 s., for reading and writing 1 s. 6 d., for arithmetic 2 s., and for Latin 2 s. 6 d. the quarter.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population was 1592. Between the years 1770 and 1780, the commencement of the increased population of this parish may be dated. For some years in that period, the increase was slow; but since the year 1780, it has been very rapid, generally above 50 persons in a year. This increase has been chiefly, if not entirely owing to the flourishing state of manufactures in the town of Arbroath. An estate, lying in detached parcels near that town, was sold very lately to several persons, who immediately feued out ground to tradesmen, for houses and small gardens. A number of houses have been already

in the lake. The belief of this had taken such hold of the people's minds, that on the day the sacrament was administered, some hundreds of the parishioners sat on an eminence about 100 yards from the church, expecting every moment the dreadful catastrophe. They were happily disappointed; and this spirit of credulity "soon vanished, like the baseless fabric of a vision." In the present times, it would prove a matter of great difficulty to make the people believe such absurdities. Perhaps the local situation of St. Vigean's, in the vicinity of the Abbey, might have disposed the people to imbibe such principles as are not easily rooted out. This much, however, may be said in favour of credulity, that it generally flows from an honest heart, though, on the other hand, it is seldom the offspring of a well informed head.

eady built; many are just now building; and these are occupied mostly by weavers. In some few farms, the number of people has decreased, particularly in one, where the cottagers in 1754 were 18, and now there is only 1 family in that place. In April 1793, the houses in this parish were 730, and the number of people of all ages is 3336; and in that number there are 65 females more than males. In 1754, on the land contiguous to the town of Arbroath, there were but 12 families, by an exact list taken by 3 elders, from house to house, weeks ago, there are in this parish, around the town, no less than 1369 persons of all ages, 669 males and 700 females \*.

In the parish, there are 225 weavers, 40 wrights, 13 smiths, 12 tailors, 17 masons, 23 shoemakers, 4 coopers, 2 dyers, 9 hopkeepers, 16 public houses, the most part of these near Arbroath, 12 gardeners, 12 flaxdressers, 2 slaters, 2 bakers, 8 wheelwrights, 2 midwives, 1 tan-yard and 2 tanners. In the above district near Arbroath, there are 2 societies, one of which takes the name of the St. Vigeans Weaver Society, instituted

Baptisms.			Marriages.			Baptisms.		
Males.	Fem.	Total.						
1788	34	25	59	1788	33	1754	60	
1789	50	35	85	1789	36	1755	47	
1790	36	38	74	1790	24	1756	53	
1791	26	39	65	1791	33	1757	40	
1792	55	38	93	1792	33	1758	50	
			376		159		250	

The average number of baptisms for the last 5 years, is 75; but it would have been greater, if the parents had been more regular in giving in the names of the children to the parish-register. The baptisms for the year 1792, which were 93, may be depended on as the exact number administered by the Established minister, as he baptized none during that period, which were not registered before baptism. But there may have been about 4 or 5 more baptised each year by ministers who are not of the Establishment. The average number of baptisms from 1754 to 1758, both inclusive, is 50. There has never been any register of burials kept in this parish.

stituted in 1787, and governed by a preses and counsellors, chosen annually. This society consists at present of 87 members, all weavers; and they admit none but those who have been regularly bred to the business. The preses buys from 800 to 1000 bolls of meal yearly, and from 400 to 500 bolls of coals, all which is given out to the members at 3 or 4 months credit; this society affords 2 s. a-week to their poor, which is paid out of the general fund; and when the fund happens to be reduced to a certain sum, their poor are supplied by a contribution among the members. The other is called the Townhead Society, is managed in much the same manner as the former, but admits members of all occupations, and has no stated allowance for their poor, but bestows as their funds will allow. The chief design of the establishment of these societies was for providing coals and meal for the families concerned in them, which they are enabled to purchase at a cheap rate, by laying in large quantities at proper seasons; and they find ample credit, by the whole members being bound for the payment. The members of both societies show particular attention to the moral character of the persons they admit.

It is but doing justice to the inhabitants of these newly erected villages, to observe, that they are generally sober, and remarkably industrious; by which means the most part of them are enabled to live comfortably. By their residence in the vicinity of Arbroath, where manufactures are carried on to a very great extent, they enjoy every advantage for knowing the goodness and value of the materials they make use of, the method by which they may be best manufactured, the character of the merchants with whom they deal, and when to embrace the fittest opportunity for disposing of their goods.

It is proper here to observe, that the first manufacturer of the cloths called Osnaburghs, in this country, and perhaps in

Scotland,

Scotland, was the late Mr. John Wallace, merchant, and some time provost of Arbroath, who began that business about the year 1740; and for many years after that period, all that kind of cloth manufactured in this part of the country centered in his shop. But now that business has been extended through almost every town, village, and parish in the county, and is now carried on to such an extent, that the very large sum of money brought into this county by that branch of business, cannot be estimated without an inspection of the custom-house books. By information sent the writer of this, from the master of the stamp-office in Arbroath, taken from his books, it appears, that from November 1791 to November 1792, there were stamped 1,055,303 yards of Osnaburgh and brown linen; and that one-fourth part of that quantity was manufactured in this parish. The value of the above cloth was 39,669 l. 6 s. 10*½* d. Sterling. The bounty paid by government is 1 d. Sterling on each yard of Osnaburgh valued 6 d. and 1*½* d. on each yard above 6 d. of price.

*Rise in the value of land.*—The property of many estates in this parish has been frequently transferred since the year 1754. One estate on the W. side of the parish, of about 300 acres, was sold about the above period for less than 600 l.; some years after that it gave 1300 l.; soon after 2300 l.; afterward for 2500 l.; it is just now in the market, and 6000 l. at least is expected for it. Another estate, on the W. side, but near Arbroath, consisting of 150 acres, was sold in 1765, for 2300 l. and 3 years ago it gave 580 l. Another estate, on the east side, of 363 acres, was sold about 20 years ago for 1200 l., soon after for 1400 l.; about 3 years ago it gave 4000 guineas. A farm of about 800 acres on the W. side of the parish, a part of which is moor, was feu'd about 20 years ago, and divided by the proprietors into 2 farms; the whole

farm paid of rent in 1754, and for several years after, about 70 l. One of the farms was let some years ago for above 200 l., and the other for 160 l. Another estate, lying near Arbroath, in detached parts, was sold about 43 years ago for 2750 l., several years after for 4750 l., and two years ago for 8000 l. in small parcels. Another estate in the E. side of the parish, was sold in 1765 for 850 l., and 2 years ago for 2000 l.

*Crops, Ploughs, Farmers.*—There are about 70 farmers in the parish, who pay of yearly rent from 2 l. to 200 l. Of 35 heritors, the number in 1754, only 2 are alive; and there is not one farmer alive in the parish, and now possessed of a farm, who was a farmer in 1754. Scots ploughs, very neatly made, and covered with yetling, are the only kind used in this parish. They are drawn by a horses, and worked by one man. The writer does not know of a plough drawn by oxen in the parish. In such variety of soil, difference of climate in the E. and W. sides of the parish, degrees of knowledge and taste of the farmers, power of habit, &c. the rotation of cropping must be very different. It is thought that the 2 following modes are the most common here. When a farmer breaks up ley ground, which has not been formerly improved, about 30 bolls of lime-shells are laid upon the acre; the shells are delivered with the barley measure, the first crop oats, the second barley, without any manure, the 3d crop oats, the 4th a green crop, or, according to the condition of the ground, barley with grass-seeds, and lies under grass generally 4 years. Or, they break up ley generally at Lammas, lay on lime and dung for wheat, 2d crop oats, 3d crop turnip, and 4th barley, with grass-seeds. There are raised here from 50 to 60 bolls of 16 stones Amsterdam weight of potatoes upon the acre, and of this useful root, great quantities are produced in the parish.

A con-

A considerable quantity of flax is also raised here, generally the 2d crop after breaking up ley ground, 9 or 10 pecks of Riga or Dutch lint-seed are sown on the acre, which produce from 25 to 30 stones avoirdupoise weight of dressed flax; rent of the acre about 5 l. About 200 stones of hay are raised on the acre. For threshing corns, the farmers allow their barnmen the 21st boll, without any victuals, or the 25th, with 1 meal a-day. There are now in the parish 4 or 5 threshing machines; but it will require some time and experience, before it is known whether or not they will prove advantageous to the farmers; they seem to think that the working of them is hurtful to their horses. It is supposed that the parish does not now produce meal sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants; but there are about 1500 bolls of wheat, and between 2000 and 3000 bolls of barley sold yearly, the greater part of which is sent to Leith and Glasgow. Turnips are raised on almost every farm; and some black cattle are fed and sold to the butchers of Arbroath, from 10 l. to 14 l. the head \*.

*Poor, &c.—*There are generally between 20 and 30 poor persons, who receive alms from the public fund of the parish, which consists of an annuity paid out of an estate in the parish

Z 2 amounting

\* *Prices, Wages, &c.—*Day labourers have here from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d., masons from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. and tailors from 6 d. to 8 d. a-day; these last have their victuals also. Ditchers for the rood 6 yards long, 5 feet broad, and 3 deep, 1 s. Dikers for 36 square yards, the stones laid down to them, from 9 s. to 10 s. Ploughmen having victuals in the farmer's house, from 7 l. to 9 l. and 10 l.; Ploughmen married, have a house from the farmer, the same wages, with 6½ bolls of meal in the year, with a Scotch pint of milk a-day. In place of milk, some have a cow maintained by the farmer, and have 5 l. wages. Beef from 4 d. to 4½ d. the Dutch pound, and veal 4 d., mutton 4½ d.; fowls 1 s., eggs 3 d. 4 d. 5 d. and 6 d. a dozen. Wages are more than double, and prices generally as 3 to 2, in 1754.

amounting to 21. 13 s. 6*d.* Sterling, mortified by George Chaplin, Esq. a native of this country, and some time merchant in Jamaica; also of the interest of 8*s* l. 6*s*. 8*d.* Sterling, at 4*i* per cent; also of the interest of 17*l.* Sterling, of some seat rents in the church, dues on mortuaries, proclamations, collections, and presents, of which last 15*l.* Sterling has been given at 3 different times, within the last 3 years, by an apulent farmer in the parish. The whole sum arising annually from the above articles, will amount to between 60*l.* and 70*l.* Sterling; all which is generally distributed to the poor within the year; and they receive their shares on the last Sabbath of every month, from 2*s.* to 4*s.* according to their situations and necessities. The heritors contribute nothing to their support\*.

*Charities, Antiquities, &c.*—On the top of a mount of much the same height with that on which the church is situated, and about 180 yards directly east, there is heard a very remarkable echo, proceeding from the E. end of the church. It repeats very distinctly 6, and in a calm evening 8 syllables,

or

\* When the poor are entered upon the roll, they are supposed to have given up their effects, in the event of their death, to the poor's fund; but these seldom fall to the session, as there are generally claims offered by relations for attendance, occasional supply, and the expense of burial. There are very few begging poor in the parish.

In the parish there are about 20 persons of the Church of England, 70 of the Scotch Episcopal church, 30 Independents, 35 Methodists, 40 Seceders, 10 Bereans. The Established Church is generally well attended, and the parishioners contribute liberally for the support of the poor, to the amount of between 10 and 13*s.* every Sabbath during the summer. The difference that prevails here, and in Arbroath, in religious opinions, appears to have no disagreeable influence on the minds and manners of the people. However much they may differ in their sentiments, they associate together, transact business, and meet in a social and convivial manner, without an instance almost of any injury or personal abuse of one another.

or a line of one psalm in metre, and does not begin to reverberate till the voice of the speaker has ceased. When the speaker moves a few yards from his first station, 2 echoes are heard, and, proceeding a little farther, in the same direction, 3 echoes are repeated. The form of the ground from the church to the station of the speaker is hollow, and nearly in the shape of a semicircle.—About 3 miles westward from the church, are seen the vestiges of Castlegary, or Callegregory, where it is said that Gregory, king of Scotland, resided; and the names of several places in the neighbourhood seem to show, that it had been once a royal residence, such as Grange of Conon, or Koning, Milkton of Conon, and Park Conon. A proprietor in the parish has informed the writer of this, that his house was built of the stones of this castle in the 16th century. Several stone coffins have been lately dug up in the parish, above 5 feet long, and 3 broad, and some earthen jars with ashes in them. A deer's horn, in high preservation, were found a few years ago in a moss, some feet below the surface, with moss above and marl below.

There is a hill called Dick, or Dickmount-law, which is said, in one of the statistical accounts, to signify a rampart of protection or peace. It is about a mile E. of the church, and seems to have been very much adapted to both the above mentioned purposes. On the top of this hill there is a large cairn, now covered with grass, and hollow in the middle, where the baron held his courts. From it there is one of the most extensive prospects in this country. There is a view of the Grampian hills, for more than 30 miles, the coast of Fife for about 18 miles, the Isle of May, the Lowmonds of Fife, Largo-law, and the German Ocean for above 50 miles.

For many years after 1754, agues were so common in this parish, that the incumbent has often seen, in the months of

March,

March, April and May, and sometimes in autumn, from 15 to 25 persons in that distemper. He does not remember to have seen a single person in the ague for 25 years past. There never seems to have been what could be called a lake in the parish ; but as a great part of the ground lies on a clay bottom, and formerly must have been very wet, it is thought that this must have contributed to the prevalence of this distemper. The climate must, no doubt, now have become much more healthy by the great number of ditches lately made here.

There are several caves in the rocks, along the W. between Arbroath and Auchmithy, one of which can be entered only at low water. When seals abounded on this coast, it was customary to let people down to this cave with a rope round their body, to the depth of 40 feet, with ropes of straw rolled round their legs, and bludgeons in their hands, in order to kill seals. There is another, called the Maiden Castle cave, the entry to which is about 10 feet above high water-mark. The mason-lodge of Arbroath built a gate to it, and gave it a door many years ago. They walked in procession every year on St. John's day from Arbroath to this cave, where they admitted new members. It is about 231 feet long, and from 12 to 24 feet broad. At the farther end there is a spring of fine water, but exceedingly cold. Above the cave are the vestiges of a fort, about 100 feet above the level of the sea, and on the land side the remains of the fosse and rampart are still visible. There is another cave, which appears as if it had been cut out of the face of the rock, the entry to which is about 40 feet above the sea. It is about 12 feet long, 10 broad, and 8 high. The access to it is difficult and dangerous \*.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* About a quarter of a mile westward from Auchmithy, there is a curious phenomenon called the gayler, or gaylet-pot. It lies in an arable field, and is distant

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Upon the side of the small river Brothock, and near the church, a brewery was erected in 1787, and in the same place a distillery in 1790, both belonging to one person. The still is 40 gallons, and pays 40l. a-year to the Excise. The distillery consumed 500 bushels of barley in 1792, when there were 2 (40 gallon) stills; and the brewery,

distant 100 yards from the front of the rocks that hang over the sea. The pot is of the shape of an inverted urn, 50 yards in diameter, but towards the west, it loses a part of its circular form, and the ground ascends in a gentler slope than the other parts of the circle, for 54 yards, till it terminates in an angular point, at the place where it reaches the level of the adjacent field. The entry to it from the sea is 130 feet below the top of the rock, and the depth of the pot is 110 feet, below the level of the ground round the edges of it. The opening from the sea is grand and awful, being about 70 feet high and 40 broad. The water from the sea runs into the pot by a subterraneous passage, which gradually contracts till it enters the bottom of the pot, where it does not exceed 10 or 12 feet in breadth and height. When the sea is rough, the wind easterly, and high water, the boisterous element bursts in at the mouth of the pot, with amazing impetuosity, and roars, and boils, and froths, till the waves of the sea fall back, and allow it to retreat, which it does with great violence, and a loud noise, which, on account of the depth of the cavity, is not heard at any great distance.

About half way between this place and Auchmithy, there is a large excavation in the rocks, in the form of a semicircle, and about 160 feet wide in the front towards the sea. It has a large pillar of rock in the middle of the entrance, almost in a line with the rocks on each side. The extent is so large, that a fishing boat with four oars can sail round the pillar, without being in danger of striking on the rock. There was a chapel dedicated to St. Ninians, situated about 2 miles from the church on the sea-side, near the place where the coast begins to rise, between Arbroath and Auchmithy. No vestige of the chapel now appears, but a part of the burying ground remains, through the middle of which a road has been lately cut, and the ends of several coffins of stone are visible. St. Ninians well, near the church-yard, was in former times of great repute for the cure of several diseases, but now totally neglected. One of the annual fairs of Arbroath was dedicated to this saint; it should be held on the first Wednesday after Trinity Sunday, but it is some time ago fixed the third Wednesday of June.

brewery, about 870 bolls the same year. The brewery pays between 300l. and 400l. a-year of excise duty.—There is nothing uncommon or remarkable in the stature, form, or appearance, or inhabitants of the parish. They are generally from 5 feet 6 inches, to 5 feet 9 inches high; their shape and size seem to indicate health and strength, and in fact, they possess a considerable share of both. There are few 6 feet high. Several young persons betake themselves to a seafaring life, and a few to the army. There are some people in the parish from 79 to 84 years of age, and 2 gentlemen died some years ago, each in his 86th year. One Alexander Burns died some time since in the 96th year of his age. On almost all the large farms in the parish, both young men and married cottagers are employed as servants. The farmers generally dress in a plain manner; the common colour of their clothes is blue; and many of them still wear the Scotch broad bonnet. The dress of a number of the men servants is a little showy, and rather superior to that of the females of the same rank. Many of the farmers are now accommodated with good houses, built of stone, and slated, and generally of the size of ordinary manses \*.

In the W. side of the parish, the farmers sow earlier than those in the E., yet the corns are generally earlier cut down

in

\* Their mode of living is considerably altered since the year 1754, and yet few of them live up to what they could afford. Their attention to their business, and their finances, prevents them from going to any excess in their family expenses. In 1754, there were not 3 farmers in the parish who had half a dozen knives and forks in their houses, now these implements abound in almost all their homes. Few of them at that time drank tea, it is now common among people of inferior station. There were not then 6 watches among the farmers; now many of the men servants have them, and there are above 100 watches and about 60 clocks in the parish. In 1754, it was common for the farmer and his wife to eat at the same table with the servants; now they eat in a separate room.

in the E. than in the W. side.—The oldest records belonging to the church-session, commence in 1665, when Mr. Strachan was ordained minister here, by a mandate from the Archbishop of St. Andrew's, and they are continued down to the year 1694. From that date, to the year 1727, there are no records extant. Since that time they have been regularly kept.—There are several quarries in the parish of a reddish coarse granite, but scarcely any stones found in the fields that can be used in building. In consequence of an act of parliament 1789, 2 turnpike roads are making here, and toll-bars have been erected about 3 years ago. The one from Arbroath to Forfar, passes through a part of the parish on the W. side, for about 4 miles. The other from Arbroath to Montrose, on the E. side, for 3 miles. The act also enjoins a commutation of the statute-labour at the rate of 24s. Sterling for each 100 l. Scots of valued rent in the county, and the sum arising from the above assessment, is appointed to be laid out on private roads within each respective parish. The sum collected out of this parish for the above purpose, amounts to between 90 l. and 100 l. Sterling.—The writer of this has been told, that in the year 1750, there were but 2 box carts, or, what is here called coup-carts, in the parish, but at present there is no other kind made use of here.—The only eminent man that has appeared in this parish, during this and a part of the last century, was Sir James Wood of Bonnington, Colonel of the Scotch Fusileers, in the reign of Queen Anne. He served in Flanders under the Duke of Marlborough, and acquired considerable reputation in his profession. Letham, once his seat, is half a mile distant from the church.

*Advantages, &c.*—The advantages which the people of this parish enjoy, are many; and the disadvantages few or

none, but such as are in their own power to remedy. A healthy climate, and, in general, a fruitful soil; no epidemical distempers prevalent among them. Coals from Arbroath, the common fuel, 70 stones Dutch weight, at 6s. and 6s. 6d.; but last winter at 8s. 6d., when they were scarcer and dearer than ever known. Every person who chooses to work, finds immediate encouragement, good wages, and ready payment for his labour. Every person who has any of the necessaries of life to dispose of, finds a ready market. The farmers enjoy, in moderation, many of the conveniences of life, and their married servants, when they behave honestly and discreetly, find protection and support from their masters. Many of the tradesmen, particularly the weavers, are in comfortable circumstances; they appear to know their interest, and to attend to it carefully. And people of all ranks seem to aim at what is useful and substantial, rather than what is showy or superfluous. Was the writer of this to express what he believes to be the general sense of the people in this parish, with respect to their situation and circumstances as members of society, it might be comprehended in the following words: " May the blessings of providence we at present enjoy, be continued to us; may the present British constitution remain unshaken, and may agriculture, manufactures, and trade flourish. What remains to complete our temporal prosperity, depends on our own activity, diligence, and industry. We want no more, we wish no less."

## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF KIRRIEMUIR.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNs, PRES-  
BYTERY OF FORFAR.)*By the Rev. Mr. THOMAS OGILVY.**Name, Extent, Surface, and Soil.*

KIRRIEMUIR, commonly pronounced Kellamuir, is a Gaelic word, and signifies Mary Kirk. The form of the parish is irregular. Its greatest length from S. E. to N. W., is 7 or 8 miles, its least 4. The greatest breadth from S. W. to N. E., is about 7 miles; the least 6. The northern part, called Glenprosen, from the river Prosen which runs the whole length of it, is bounded on the S. by Kingoldrum; on the E. and N. by a ridge of mountains which separates it from Cortachy and Clova; and on the W. by another ridge of mountains which separates it from Glenisla and Lintrathen. This glen is about 12 miles long; and, with the tract of country which lies along the burn of Lednathie, Glenug, Glenlogie, and some smaller glens which are comprehended

under the general name Glenprosen, may contain 24 or 30 square miles. The face of the country is various. For about a mile to the N. of the parishes of Glammis and Forfar, it is almost flat. Then it rises gently about 2 miles more, forming almost one continued sloping bank, till within a few hundred yards of the town, which stands nearly in the centre of the southern part of the parish, and is separated by a narrow valley or den, about 100 feet deep, from the above bank. To the E. and W. of the town, it is almost level. The rest of the parish is beautifully diversified with hills, and dales, rivers, woods, and plains. The hills, however, those in Glenprosen excepted, are of no great elevation, and are either cultivated, or planted, or afford tolerable pasture. Glenprosen is altogether hilly and mountainous. A few of the hills are covered with grass, except on their summits; and a few of them are rocky; but they are, in general, covered with heath, interspersed, however, with innumerable patches of grass, probably produced by the many rills which tumble down their sides. Some of these hills are intersected by rivulets which have their source in the glens formerly mentioned; and in the glens are several hundred acres of flat mossy ground, partly covered with bent and rough grass, which afford good pasture for young cattle during the summer months, as the hills do for sheep. In Glenprosen, the soil is partly thin and light, partly mossy, and, in general, wet. In the southern part of the parish, are all kinds of soil; but a black mould, on a bottom of mortar, predominates. This, when dry, produces heavy crops of all kinds of grain; but being in many places wet and spongy, the harvest is often late, and the grain of rather an inferior quality.

*Rivers, and Woods.*—The river Eik, which has its source in Clova, forms the N. E. boundary of this parish for about

2 miles

2 miles. The Profen takes its rise in the N. W. extremity of it ; runs the whole length of the glen to which it gives name ; afterward separates the parishes of Cortachy and Kingoldrum for about 2 miles ; then Kirriemuir and Cortachy for about 2 miles more ; and falls into the Esk near Invercarity. The Carity has its source in the parish of Lintrathen ; traverses that and the parish of Kingoldrum ; and, after a meandering course of about 4 miles in this parish, is lost in the Esk at Invercarity, to which it gives name. These rivers swarm with small trout, which afford excellent sport for the angler ; and, in the summer months, a great number of sea-trout resort to the Esk and Profen. This trout is red, of an excellent flavour, and by many people preferred to salmon. Some years ago, salmon were likewise plenty in the Esk ; but now, owing to the dam-dikes towards the mouth of the river, their numbers here are inconsiderable. The Gairie has its source about 2 miles to the W. of the town in the meadow, formerly the Lake of Kinnordy. After passing the meadow, it glides along a channel cut for it out of solid rock, till within 300 or 400 yards of the town. Then, changing its course to the S. E., it descends into a narrow valley ; and, in its fall, turns a corn and malt mill, a flax, and a fulling mills. Directing again its course to the E., it meanders along the den, which is of a serpentine form, about 200 yards to the S. of the town, and 60 feet below the level of the lowest part of it. At the eastern extremity of the den, which is about a mile long, it takes a southern direction, and after beautifying and enriching the parks of Logie, again turns to the S. E., and, after a course of about 10 miles, which, in a direct line, would not exceed 5, falls into the Dean a little to the E. of Glammis Castle. Before the Lake of Kinnordy was drained, in 1740, this was a considerable stream ; but now, in a dry summer, it is scarcely sufficient to turn a mill.

This parish, to the E. of the town, was once a continuous forest, called Platane. At present there are no woods of great extent; though a considerable quantity both of hard and soft timber, of all kinds and ages, is interspersed up and down the parish, especially on the estate of Kinnordy, the proprietor of which is giving his seat every embellishment which wood can bestow, as well as ornamenting the country, by planting every piece of waste ground on his estate. Mr. Ogilvy of Clova, has likewise planted, within these few years, 300 acres of Scotch and Larix firs, besides hard wood; and continues to plant a certain number of acres every year. There is, besides, in Glenprosen, a considerable quantity of natural wood, mostly birch; and, were it not for the sheep, it would soon become a forest, as the upper part of it, which is still called the Forest of Glenprosen, has evidently been.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate varies considerably. The lower part of the parish is far more mild and temperate than Glenprosen, except in the middle of summer, when, owing to the reflexion of the sun's beams from the hills, the latter is perhaps warmer than the former. And, about the boundaries of the parishes of Glammis and Forfar, the air is milder than about the town, and to the northward of it. Scrofula and consumptions are the most common disorders; and we are sometimes, though rarely, visited with putrid fevers. The air is clear and salubrious; the people rather above the common size, well made, strong, active, and healthy. The ague, which is common in the lower parts of Strathmore, is unknown here; and, often, whilst Forfar, Glammis, and Meigle, are enclosed in mist, there is none at Kirriemuir. There are no instances of a remarkable longevity; but many arrive at 80; and 2 or 3 died lately who were above 90.

*Cultivation, &c.—* Part of this parish was enclosed many years ago, and is in a state of high cultivation; and, in every part of it, improvements are carrying on. Such, at present, seems to be the spirit for improvements in agriculture, both among the proprietors and tenants, that if they go on for a few years longer, as they have done for 15 years past, there will be little waste ground in the parish. What is wet, they are draining; what is uncultivated and arable, they are bringing into tillage; what is not arable, they are planting. Much has been done in all these ways; and a great deal still remains to be done. And here the means of improvement are to be had in great abundance. The Lake of Kinnordy, which is completely drained, and the meadows of Logie, which are not drained, contain an inexhaustible supply of fine marl. Nor is encouragement wanting to engage the tenants to use it. For the proprietor of Kinnordy sells it considerably cheaper than any other marl in the county; though, in quality, it is, by many, reckoned inferior to none. Accordingly, it is carried not less than 14 miles. The town likewise affords a great deal of manure, which, within these 3 years, has risen from 8 d. and 9 d. the cart load, to 16 d. and 18 d. This is a clear proof of the spirit for improvement; and, as another, it may not be improper to mention, that a small estate about 2 miles to the N. of the town, sold last year at 60 years purchase, though one half of it is under lease for a life, and the other for 9 or 10 years. Few, if any, leases are now let, in which the tenant is not bound to a regular rotation of cropping; and those who have old leases, and are not bound, begin to find it their interest to follow one. The rotations most common are, 1st, oats or flax, after ley; 2d, turnip or potatoes; 3d, oats; 4th, barley with grass-seeds; 5th, hay; 6th, 7th, and 8th, pasture; then oats or flax, &c. as before. Instead of 3 years, some pasture 5; and, in place of making hay

in the first year of the grass, some are beginning to pasture that year, and to cut for hay the second. This, they think, gives them hay of a superior quality, and rye-grass seed in the greatest perfection. A few never make any hay for sale; but pasture all the years. Instead of taking only 1 crop of corn after the ley, some take 2. The whole dung of the farm is laid on with the turnip or potatoes; and when it is not sufficient for all the ground allotted for green crop, they fallow, and sometimes dung and sow wheat in October. At present, however, wheat is not a common crop here; the farmers finding that barley is, in general, more profitable, especially when the value of the turnip is considered. Another rotation much approved of, when dung can be commanded, is, 1st, oats after ley; 2d, turnip or potatoes; 3d, barley with grass-seeds; 4th, hay, or the grass cut green; 5th, pasture; 6th, oats, or flax, &c. as before. Here likewise the dung is laid on with the turnip, &c., which are always horse-hoed. Another mode of culture practised here, deserves to be mentioned. Mr. Kinloch of Kiltie, having the command of the river Gairie, begins, in the month of November, to flood his enclosures at Logie, and continues to do so at intervals, till the middle of April. These enclosures have been in grass since the year 1770; and, in consequence of the above practice, are now the earliest and best grass fields in the county; and there is not, perhaps in Scotland, any superior to them. Before the above period, they let at from 10s. to 12s. an acre. Last season, 1792, from 3 l. to 4 l. 10 s. Sterling the acre.

Neither oats nor barley are raised in sufficient quantities to supply the consumption of the parish; but black cattle, lean

and

† Small's plough, with a metal mould-board, is getting into general use; and few farmers are without a roller.

and fatted ; sheep for the butcher, poultry, butter, cheese, honey, wool, and tallow, to a considerable amount, are annually exported. The farmers have lately turned their attention to the breeding of horses. By consequence the breed has been much improved, and a large sum of money saved the parish, which used to be sent out of it for that useful animal. The most intelligent of the breeders of sheep have likewise changed their system ; and, instead of buying the greatest part of their flock, when a year old, at the Linton market, as was the practice some years ago, they are begun to rear nearly as many lambs as serve them. The sheep reared here are altogether white. They are not so heavy as the Linton sheep : but their wool is finer, and their mutton of a higher flavour.

"c :

<sup>122</sup> *Town, Manufactures, &c.*—Kirriemuir, a burgh of barony, is of considerable antiquity ; but the date of its erection is here unknown \*.

Situated near the foot of the braes of Angus, in a fertile, extensive, and populous district, Kirriemuir is the mart to which the inhabitants of the neighbouring parishes chiefly resort. Hence no town in the county has a better weekly market ; in none of its size is more trade carried on. Nine carriers go regularly to Dundee twice, and often thrice a-week,

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loaded

\* It is, however, certain, that the jurisdiction of its bailie was very great ; and, it is said, extended even over the hill of Dundee. It stands in a very healthy and pleasant situation, partly on a flat, and partly on an inclined plane, on the S. W. side of a hill of the same name, along the northern brow of a beautiful den, through which runs the small river Gairie. In form, it very much resembles an anchor ; that part of it which lies along the den, in the level situation, forming the arms ; and that which stands on an inclined plane, the shank of the anchor. The prospect of the lower part of the town is bounded by the southern brow of the den ; but from the higher part is seen almost the whole of Strathmore.

loaded with the produce, or manufactures of the district, and bring from thence flax, sugar, tea, porter, rum, and all kinds of merchant goods; and two come twice a-week from Montrose. And it is to be observed, that these carriers seldom bring coals. The town is supplied with that article by Dundee carriers, or the farmers in the neighbourhood\*. Two annual fairs are held here, in July and October, for sheep, horses, and black cattle; and for flax, wool, labouring utensils, and household necessaries. It contains 492 houses, 471 families, 10 brewers, who are likewise innkeepers, 12 retailers of foreign spirits, 3 of wine, about 20 of ale and whisky, 27 merchants, 228 weavers, and 1584 souls.

Two tan-yards have been established here for some time, and a third is erecting. A distillery was begun some months ago, in a situation than which none could be better adapted for the purpose; and in building the houses necessary for it, the proprietor had in view the establishment of a brewery at the same place, should a proper person be found to undertake it. About 1200 pair of shoes are made annually for exportation; and the manufacture of coarse linen is carried on to a very great extent. Osnaburgh, scrim, and birdy, to the amount of about 38,000 l. Sterling, were manufactured from September 1791 to September 1792. This is more than was ever before manufactured in one year, and must have been owing to the flourishing state of the trade, which was never better than it is at present, December 1792†.

#### *Population.*

\* It is 16 miles from Dundee, 20 from Arbroath, 25 from Brechin, 5 3-4ths from Forfar, and 5 from Glamis.

† A journeyman weaver can, with ease, gain 16 d. a-day, and a woman 8 d. at spinning. And to such perfection have some of the people here arrived in this business, that many women, when they exert themselves, can gain 12 d. and even 15 d. a-day; and a weaver lately wrought, on a wager, in 18 hours and 20 minutes,

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 3409. At present they amount to between 4000 and 5000. Males born in 1792, 68, females 70, marriages 43.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c*—It appears that there were once 4 religious houses in the parish, besides the one presently used as a parish church, and the chapel in Glenpofsen, where the minister still officiates 2 or 3 times a-year\*.

B b 2

An

20 minutes, a web of birdy, consisting of 91 yards, for working which 8s. was then paid. This has greatly raised the price of all kinds of labour. In 1786, the wages of a labouring man servant were from 5 l. to 7 l.; of a woman from 2 l. 10s. to 3 l.; of a mason from 15 d. to 18 d. a-day; of a joiner from 12 d. to 15 d. At present, 1792, they are as follows: of a man servant, from 7 l. to 10 l. of a woman, from 3 l. to 4 l. 4s.; of a mason, from 20 d. to 24 d. a-day; of a joiner, from 15 d. to 18 d. All kinds of provisions have likewise risen in proportion; if we abstract from the quality, which has been much improved since the above period. Beef, mutton, and lamb, sell at from 3 d. to 4½ d. the pound; veal at 2½ d. to 4 d.; honey at 6 d. to 12 d. the pound, Dutch weight; fowls at 9 d. to 14 d.; eggs at 3 d. to 4 d. a dozen; butter at 9 d. to 11 d. the pound or 27 oz.; cheese at 6 s. to 8 s. the stone, of 27 English pounds. The price of victual is very much regulated by the market at Dundee. Oatmeal and barley are, at a medium, about 14 s. the boll.

\* One at a place called Chapeltown, about 3 miles to the N. of the town; one at Killhill, about 3 miles to the E. of it; one near Balinshoe; and one in Kirriemuir. It is probable that the one near Balinshoe was built by the proprietor, for the use of his own family; as the site of it is still enclosed with a good wall, and used as the burying place of the Fletchers of Balinshoe. Whether the others belonged to private families, or the parish in general, and when any of them were used as places of public worship, is uncertain. But the proprietor of the site of the one in Kirriemuir is, to this day, called Sainty, and not 'titled to a mill in the neighbourhood, which is the case with every other proprietor in the town; and a piece of ground adjoining, now used as a garden, is 'old wris called the Kirk-yard.

An elegant church was built here in 1787, to which Charles Lyell, Esq. of Kinnordy, the principal heritor and superior of the town, added a handsome spire, which is seen through the whole of Strathmore. The manse was built in 1774; but so ill executed, that it was found necessary to repair it in 1787. It is now a substantial and commodious house. The stipend is 112 bolls of victual,  $\frac{1}{2}$  meal, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  bear, and 470 l. Scotch, including 50 l. for communion elements, and 20 l. for grafts-money, with a glebe of 4 acres. Lord Douglas is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks, with a commodious house and a small garden, besides 1 l. 12 s. Sterling, mortified to him, many years ago, by a Mr. Ogilvy a clergyman in London, for teaching 4 boys of his own name \*.

The number of scholars varies from 60 to 100. There are 2 private schools in the town, at one of which the numbers are much the same as at the parochial school. At the other, are taught from 20 to 40 scholars. In the country part of the parish; there are 4 schools, at which from 100 to 150 children are taught to read English.

The number of poor families which constantly receive alms,  
is

\* Mr. Hendry of the parish of Kensington, London, a native of this parish, by his will, bequeathed to the minister and elders 1400 l. Sterling, in trust, the interest of 1200 l. to be laid out in educating, and furnishing with books, pens, ink, and paper, 12 boys, or, as many more as it will educate; and the interest of the remaining 200 l. to be paid to the schoolmaster for keeping the accounts. Some difficulties arose about some parts of Mr. Hendry's property, and the exclusion of the trust in his will; so that his executors did not think themselves safe to pay the money without an amicable suit in Chancery. This was begun in 1784; and in 1786, the Chancellor found the money due, with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years interest; but, instead of ordering it to be paid, he directed it to be laid out in the funds, and a plan to be given in how it was to be expended. This was done soon after; but the legacy has not yet been paid. It is, however, expected that payment will be ordered in the course of next term.

is at present 19. The only fund for their support arises from the interest of a small sum saved by the session in former years, to answer any emergence, collections in the church, dues for lending mortcloths, fines from delinquents, and the sale of the effects of pensioners after their death. These, for the year 1792, amounted to 99 l. 9 s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The distributions to the above pensioners, and some other occasional charities, with 4 l. 6 s. paid to the session-clerk and beadle, amounted to 86 l. 16 s. 2 d.; so that in 1792, there was a saving of 12 l. 18 s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., although the allowance to each pensioner was never more liberal, being from 3 s. to 7 s. a-month, besides the rent of their house, and from 5 s. to 10 s. to assist them in buying fuel \*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A little to the W. of the town is a globular hillock, and contiguous to it, a circular pond evidently excavated to form the hillock. In a disposition to the estate of Kinnordy by one of the Douglas family, this hillock, which is called the Court Hillock, and a road to it, is reserved. The pond is commonly called the Witch Pook, and was lately converted into a reservoir for the mills on the Gairie; a much better use than, if we may judge from the name,

\* In 1762, the collections made in the church were, each Sunday, at a medium, including what was collected at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, 9 s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. In 1772, the church was vacant; but in 1770, they were 14 s. 2 d.; and in 1790, 1 l. 8 s. 10 d.: A clear proof this of the growing opulence of the parish, as well as of their charitable disposition. But in order to have the amount of their charity, we must add a considerable sum given to be distributed among poor families, not pensioners, by two of the heritors who are Episcopalians, and, therefore, seldom or never attend the church; and a very large sum given by the people to strolling beggars, most of whom, instead of being objects of charity, are very fit objects for a house of correction. Such, however, is the disposition of the people, that their purse is open to every vagabond who can tell a plausible tale of woe; and as much squandered in this way as would make all the poor in the parish live comfortably.

name, the superstition of our ancestors led them to apply it. At Invercarity there is a Gothic building of cut stone in good repair. When it was erected, is uncertain; but it must have been before the 15th century. It consists of 4 stories, and each storey, except the uppermost, which is divided into 2, of only one apartment. The walls are about 9 feet thick, project considerably near the top, and terminate in a parapet not more than a foot thick. Between the parapet and roof; there is a space for 2 or 3 men to walk abreast, and immediately above the gate 3 square apertures, through the projection of the wall, so placed, that a stone dropped through them must fall upon a person standing at the gate. To the E. of the gate which fronts the S., are some vestiges of a wing, demolished, it is said, by the Earl of Crawford, in 1445, in some family feud between the Lindsays and Ogilvies, one of whom was then proprietor of Invercarity\*.

## N U M.

\* This town was in great distress in 1782, not so much from a scarcity of victual, for some of the farmers never had a better crop, as from a resolution entered into by the people not to give above a certain price. Consequently the farmers carried their victual to the best market; and this place was threatened with a famine. To prevent this in future, a society was established in 1785, called the Weaver Society. Each member, at his admission, pays a certain sum, and so much a quarter afterward; and, in case of sickness, or inability to work, he is entitled to a certain allowance a-week; and in the event of his having a widow, she receives a small annuity. The funds, which are now considerable, are employed in purchasing meal, which is sold to the members at prime cost, and to others, at a trifling profit. This society has been of great use to the parish. Another, on much the same plan, called the Society of Shoemakers, was established some months ago. There are 3 mosses in the parish, and several others on the boundaries of it. From these, the common people are supplied with fuel; but the mosses being much exhausted, it is now procured with difficulty; and after a wet season, the poor are almost starved. This is the chief disadvantage under which the parish labours; and is likely to be, in some measure, remedied by the great quantity of thriving timber lately planted here, and in the neighbourhood; and by the turnpike road making to Dundee, the nearest sea port.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF KEMNAY.

COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH.)

*By the Rev. Mr. PATRICK MITCHELL.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

THE name of this district is said to be derived from the Kembs, a chain of little hills which takes its rise early at the middle of the parish, and extending along the side of it, terminates in the parish of Cluny, by which Kemnay is bounded on the W. and S. W. There are 2 mineral springs at the foot of the Kembs, about an English mile distant from each other, one of which is called the Emb-well, and the other the Spa-well. The water is pretty strongly impregnated with iron, but has not as yet got any reputation for its medicinal virtues. The parish lies 14 miles from the capital of the county. It is bounded on the N. E., and N. W., by the river Don. It is of an irregular

gular figure, and about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  English miles in length, and nearly 3 broad. It is rather hilly than flat; but there are no hills in it of any considerable height.

*Rivers, Fib.*—The Don, which is our only river, abounds in excellent salmon. The way in which they are caught here, is by cruives, of which there are 2 belonging to Mr. Burnett of Kemnay. The salmon are sent fresh to Aberdeen for exportation, and are sold to the merchant at 4d. the pound, from the beginning of the fishing season to the middle of April, and thence, to the end of the season, at  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. the pound,

*Soil.*—The soil is, for the most part, a light mould, very stony, and lying on a bed of sand. The haughs, indeed, on the banks of the Don, are, in general, a fine rich loam, deep, and perfectly free from stones; but they are of no great extent in this district. We have here great abundance of peat-moss, a considerable part of which has been in tillage for ages, and is called Burntland. It was heretofore the practice to plough such grounds early in summer, and as soon as the furrows were a little dried, to set fire to them; a practice of considerable advantage to the farmer for a few years after the burning, but very ruinous to the soil. Since this practice was prohibited, the crops of oats on our mossy grounds have been poor, and, in late seasons, are generally lost. But trees of all kinds thrive wonderfully in our peat-mosses. The late Lord Kaimes takes notice of this fact in his Gentleman Farmer; but he states it inaccurately, and draws a conclusion from it, which by no means follows. “At the seat of Mr. Burnett of Kemnay,” says his Lordship (page 305, of the edition 1776) “10 miles from Aberdeen, a kitchen-garden, a flower-garden, a wilderness of trees indigenous

indigenous and exotic, are all in a peat-moss, where water stagnates from 1 foot to 2 under the surface." This, Lord Kaimes advances as a proof, that "a plant may acquire a constitution fitting it for growing partly in earth, partly in water." But the kitchen-garden and flower-garden at Kemnay, are not in a peat-moss. On the contrary, the soil of both is a light mould, very shallow, and lying on sand of a deep brown colour. It is true that the wilderness is in a peat-moss, and that almost all the trees, both indigenous and exotic, that have been planted in it, have come away with extraordinary rapidity. But the tap roots stop immediately when they come to the stagnant water, that is, to the quick moss, as we call it, and push no further. The other roots shoot horizontally to a great distance from the tree, but never go below the dry or dead part of the moss. It is necessary to observe farther, that in planting in peat-moss, it is always found expedient here, to throw into the pit that is dug for the reception of the plant, a certain quantity of good earth, either loam or mould, among which it takes root; and that in no instance has a tree been observed to vegetate above 2 or 3 years, where this was omitted.

*Air, Climate.*—Notwithstanding the abundance of peat-moss in this parish, which has, doubtless, rather a bad effect upon the air, the inhabitants, in general, are not unhealthy. The greater number of the little villages in which they live, is in elevated situations. No local distemper has ever been known to prevail among them, unless that kind of dropsy which physicians call the anasarca; and which frequently appears here, may be called such. This disorder, however, is seldom mortal, as it yields to a very simple cure, if the old advice is followed, "*venienti occurrite morbo.*"

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—The time of sowing oats is, generally, from the 2d or 3d week of March to the middle of April; bear, from the end of April to the 20th of May; and turnips, from the 10th to the 20th of June. No other crop besides these is raised in the district; and it is only about 4 or 5 years since any person but the principal heritor \* began to sow turnips in the fields. They are still sown in very small quantities by the tenants. Harvest generally begins about the end of August, or the 1st week of September; and the crop is brought into the barn-yards by the end of October. In 1775, harvest was completely finished by the end of August; but such early seasons are, generally, followed by a scarcity of straw, our only winter food for horses and cattle.

*Agriculture.*—This useful art is very far from being in an improved state in this parish. The late Mr. Burnett of Kemnay set an excellent example, as a farmer, to his tenants. Of nearly 130 acres; which he enclosed and improved, between 90 and 100 acres were moor or marsh, which he broke up, drained, and cleared of stones, of which there was an amazing number, and the most of them so large, that they could not be removed till they were blown up with gunpowder. While Mr. Burnett was improving these grounds, which he left in a high state of cultivation, and paying well for the expense bestowed upon them, he planted, with trees of different kinds, 130 acres, besides hedge-rows, in the English mode, round every field in his farm, on each side of the avenues leading to his house, and in the little gardens of his tenants. The wilderness already mentioned, was also enclosed and planted, while

Mr.

\* The late Mr. Burnett of Kemnay, is said to have been the first farmer in the county of Aberdeen, who raised turnips in the fields.

Mr. Burnett's improvements in agriculture were going on. It contains 24 acres of the most thriving wood, shrubs, &c. and is one of the most delightful pieces of pleasure-ground in the N. of Scotland, though all in a peat-moss. But Mr. Burnett's example, in respect of improvement, has produced very little effect on his tenants, among whom, in general, the same mode of agriculture prevails that was followed a century ago. There is, indeed, an inclination among them to alter it. A taste for cleaning their grounds by green crop, and sowing artificial grass, begins to appear. But they have several obstacles to improvement to surmount. They have not sufficient stock. Indeed, there is not a substantial tenant in the parish. They have scarcely any enclosures. Their leases are short, none of them exceeding 19 years. The carriage of lime from the port of Aberdeen, where alone it can be got, is a very heavy expense, as we have neither a canal nor a navigable river. The tenants pay a high multure \* at the mill. They have no fuel but peats, the digging and carrying home of which afford full employment to their servants and horses, from the end of May till harvest begin. Coals are too high-priced for them, in consequence of the unreasonable tax on that article, which has been so often complained of, and is at last to be taken off, I hope for ever †.

Cc 2

Scarcely

\* The multures on Lord Kintore's part of the parish were lately commuted for money; and I have the pleasure to learn, that the proprietor of the estate of Kemnay has it in contemplation to commute his multures also.

† *Remarkable Storm.*—Two years ago, a calamity befel the greater part of this parish, and of the parishes of Cluny and Kintore, which produced great distress, and is still, in some measure, felt. On the 30th of July 1790, about 10 o'clock before noon, there came on a storm of thunder and lightning, attended with a heavy fall of hail, or rather of pieces of ice. The storm continued with scarcely any intermission, till 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the ground was quite covered with ice, and, where there was no standing corn, exhibited as much

Scarcely any part of this parish is enclosed; but what is in the immediate possession of the principal landholder. The farms are, in general, rather small, and rent from 60*l.* down as low as 6*l.* I do not mean that they are small in point of extent. If all the grounds in every farm were improved, that are capable of improvement, several of the farms would be very

much the appearance of winter as it does in the end of December, after a fall of snow. I was informed, upon good authority, that the hail, at the foot of the wall of Castle Fraser, which is in the parish of Cluny, measured 5 feet in depth on the evening of the 30th. It lay there, and in many other places in this neighbourhood, for several days. It did not occur to any body to measure or weigh the hail-stones; so that I cannot say any thing particular respecting the size of them. After the thunder and lightning ceased, the hail was succeeded by small drizzling rain, which continued to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. All ended at night in a most intense frost, attended by a mildew, which blasted almost every thing which the lightning and hail had spared. The bear and oats being in the ear, and the most forward of them beginning to fill, a great deal of the grain was knocked from the ear by the hail. On the first clear day after the storm, the bear began to put on a brown colour, and in less than a week, the ears were almost all white. The straw continued green and juicy, till it was cut down in harvest, and proved excellent food for the cattle. I remarked, that some grains in the blasted ears continued to vegetate after the storm, and came to perfection. But they were very few. To give some idea of the general failure of our bear crop, in consequence of this storm, I must state, that from a small field of something more than half an acre, which I had limed and dressed with turnips in 1789, I reaped not quite half a peck of bear in 1790. The oats not being so far advanced as the bear, suffered less. But, in general, it was estimated that we lost at least three-fourths of our crop of oats. The potatoes likewise failed, the stems having been first shattered by the hail, and then entirely destroyed by the succeeding frost. Some Surinam potatoes, which I had planted that season, did, indeed, put forth again with great vigour; but it was too late. The cabbages, greens, turnips, and all broad leaved vegetables, were much torn, and consequently checked in their growth. The grass, both natural and artificial, was greatly damaged. In a word, every vegetable suffered by the ravages of this destructive storm. Yet as they did not extend over a space above 24 or 26 miles in circumference, we felt none of the hardships of scarcity. Grain was to be got in great plenty in our neighbourhood, and at a moderate price. No lives were lost by the storm.

very large and very valuable. There are a good many small parcels of land, which we call crofts, held immediately of the proprietor, and renting from 1 l. 10 s. to 3 l. These are generally possessed by day-labourers and mechanicks. No part of the lands here is let by the acre, and I believe they are moderately rented upon the whole; and, in some particular cases, very low. I have not, as yet, got an account of the number of acres which this district contains; and I cannot state precisely the amount of the rent. Perhaps it may be between 600 l. and 700 l. yearly.

The vegetable produce of this parish has already been mentioned. With respect to animal productions, there are in it about 500 black cattle, of a small size; between 80 and 90 horses of middle size, and about 1300 sheep, all white, with very few exceptions, whose carcases are small, and their wool coarse, and not very plentiful, the fleeces weighing scarcely 1 lib. each, at an average. I cannot state exactly what part of the produce of this district is carried to market out of the parish. But in all ordinary seasons, a considerable quantity of oatmeal, bear, and oats, is sent to Aberdeen, besides domestic fowls, eggs, cheese and butter, and sometimes fed cattle, particularly calves, and some sheep, for the butcher \*.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population then was 643. At the present time the whole number of inhabitants is 611, of whom there are 150 under 10 years  
of

\* There are hares, foxes, some deer that visit us occasionally, and most of the fowls which are natives of the north part of Scotland. The birds of passage are wild-geese, which appear in autumn, and leave us in spring, the house-sparrow, and the hirundo riparia, which builds its nest in the high banks of the river, the green-plover or lapwing, the cuckoo, and two or three different kinds of birds from the sea-coast, which bring forth their young about the banks of the Don, and then retire.

of age, 104 from 10 to 20, 3 from 80 to 90, and 2 above 90. There are few widowers; but there is a considerable number of widows; only one old bachelor, who is a housekeeper, but a good many unmarried women, who are pretty far advanced in life. The number of females exceeds that of the males by 92.

*ABSTRACT of the BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, and BURIALS for  
the last 9 Years.*

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	8	2	3
1785	23	4	19
1786	15	3	5
1787	15	2	7
1788	10	4	6
1789	11	2	7
1790	17	9	4
1791	16	2	11
1792	22	5	14
—	—	—	—
Average nearly,	15	4	8

*Occupations and General Character, &c.—* There are 4 weavers, 3 tailors, 1 blacksmith, 3 shoemakers, 2 joiners, and 1 cartwright. None of these manufacture articles for sale, but work for the inhabitants of the parish and neighbourhood. There are also a grocers, one of whom is a distiller. All the rest, except the principal landholder, his family and domestics, are farmers, cottagers, and farm servants. The women never work in the fields but in harvest. They are constantly employed in household affairs, and in knitting coarse worsted stockings for exportation, which is the only manufacture which has

has been introduced into the district. The Aberdeen hosiers take in the manufactured stockings, and give out wool once a month. A woman who is considered as a good knitter, will finish 2 pairs in a week, if the worsted is spun to her; for which she receives from the hosier 2 s. 4 d., or 2 s. 6 d. The spinning costs 8 d. So that the utmost that a woman employed in this manufacture can earn, is 2 s. 2 d. a-week. Several of the men, when they become old, and unfit for working in the fields, employ themselves in spinning and knitting. Some of the boys likewise are so employed in winter. My acquaintance with my parishioners commenced very early; for I was born in the parish, and, unless when I attended the university, resided constantly in it, till I was 17 years of age; and I have always observed them to be, with few exceptions, sober, frugal, and industrious, very decent and serious in what regards religion, but far from being wild or fanatical; much attached to their ministers, of whom they have had six within the last 40 years, and much beloved by them; peaceable in their intercourse with one another, and, in general, honest in their dealings. No person remembers to have heard of an inhabitant of this parish undergoing a criminal trial \*. There are two public houses; but they are very little frequented, unless by travellers, and about 5 or 6 of the inhabitants of the parish, the only persons in it who have not a good title to the character of sober. Several of the natives have, in my memory, enlisted in the army; but the people, in general, are not fond of a military life. They are all Scotch, most of them natives

\* There was, indeed, a murder committed in it about 30 years ago. It was the consequence of a drunken quarrel. The murderer, who, by the by, was not a native of the parish, and had been but short time in it, evaded a prosecution by an immediate flight. If any suicide has ever been committed in the parish, it must have been long ago, for no such event is remembered by the oldest now living.

natives of the parish. They are all of the Established Church, except 5 Burgher Seceders, 15 Episcopalians, (formerly Non-jurors), and 1 Catholic, a very late convert from the Established religion. The Episcopalians appear sometimes in the parish church: the Seceders and the Catholics are never seen there.

The inhabitants of this parish seem, in general, to be as well pleased with their lot as any in similar stations in this part of Scotland. I know of no oppression that they labour under; and I have always observed, that it is with reluctance, that any person or family, who have been for some time in the parish, remove from it to another. There is no doubt, however, that their situation, and that of all the inhabitants of Aberdeenshire of their rank, might be meliorated, if agriculture, and the establishment of manufactures, were properly encouraged. And I suspect that the landholders cannot effectually promote those two great objects, without public aid, however much they may be disposed to do so. Without bridges, better roads than we have at present, and navigable canals, it is not likely that any considerable improvement will take place in the county. The establishment of great manufacturing houses at Aberdeen, operates, as yet, against the landed interest. While it is every year raising the price of labour, it has in no degree raised the price of grain, and has had very little effect on that of cattle. It has produced a most distressing scarcity of farm-servants, which, in a country so little improved, must be ruinous in a very high degree.

*Poor.*—The number of parish-poor is commonly between 20 and 30. The whole yearly sum which the kirk-session have under their management, for the benefit of the poor, is about 18*l.*, which arises from the weekly collections in the church, and the interest of some legacies. There is also the sum

sum of 10 l. a-year, bequeathed by a Mr. Anderson of the Island of St. Christopher's, (who was once a beggar boy, and educated in this parish at the public expense), under the management of the principal landholder, and distributed by him in meal, to those whom he deems most proper objects of charity, whether they are on the session's list or not. Yet, notwithstanding the scantiness of our provision for the poor, there are but 3 common beggars in the parish ; only one of whom is a native, and he never begs without the bounds of the parish.

*Eminent Men.*—I have heard of no eminent men to whom this parish has given birth. It gave burial to one, who made no inconsiderable figure both in the literary and political world ; I mean Thomas Burnett, Esq. the grandfather of the present Mr. Burnett of Kemnay, and the first of the family who possessed the estate. This gentleman travelled over a great part of Europe, and was the friend and correspondent of Leibnitz, and of several other learned men of his time. He was the relation and intimate friend of Dr. Gilbert Burnett, Bishop of Sarum \*.

VOL. XII.

D. d.

Names

\* "He was long at the Court of Hanover," says a manuscript account of him, that is in the possession of his grandson, "where he was honoured with many distinguishing marks of favour, and, after the prospect of the succession of that illustrious family to the Crown of Britain, began to open, he was trusted by the Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, in conveying her sentiments, on some of the most critical and delicate occasions, to some of the great men in England. His zeal and fidelity in this service drew on him the resentment of the Jacobites, by whose influence he was imprisoned in the Bastile, in passing through France to Hanover, where he was detained, till the Duchess of Orleans procured his liberty, at the repeated instances of the Electress, and the Queen of Russia, her daughter.

"Mr. Burnett was honoured with many letters from her Serene Highness the Electress, expressing an entire satisfaction in his services, and wishing for an occasion

*Names of Places.*—The names of places in this parish are partly English, and partly Gaelic. Of the former description

casion of being useful to him in his own country. Yea, so anxious was that gracious Princess to carry her good intention into execution, that she wrote a letter to my Lord Sunderland, in which she desires his good offices in procuring some mark of favour from the Court of England, to Mr. Burnett, which, she is pleased to say, will be very acceptable to her and all her family, who interest themselves in him. But this letter was not delivered till the day before that Lord was removed from all his employment, and it was not, at that season, a recommendation at the Court of England. In 1710, when Baron Bothmer was sent Envoy extraordinary from the Court of Hanover to that of Great Britain, on a very critical occasion, he was instructed to communicate, in every thing relating to what he was charged with at the Court of London, with Mr. Burnett, then there, and Mr. Burnett was desired by her Electoral Highness to give Baron Bothmer his advice and assistance, in a letter written by the Secretary, sealed with the Electress's signet, and accompanied with this gracious declaration of her intentions. ‘S. A. E. Madam m'ordonne de vous bien remercier de sa part, du zèle que vous continuez de lui marquer pour sa personne, et pour les intérêts de cette maison Electorale, dont elle vous témoignera, dans l'occasion, sa reconnaissance par des effets.’ Mr. Burnett lived some years after the accession; but, being old and infirm, had retired from the World; and he did not live to receive those rays of the late king's (George the I.) goodness, which his Majesty was so gracious as signify he intended him, in answer to a letter that Mr. Burnett took the liberty to write, acquainting his Majesty of his having a son born on the accession, whom he had named George, that he might always remember, with his name, the blessings which were derived to the nation from that day. This son, the only one Mr. Burnett ever had, sent to his cousin the Honourable Thomas Burnett, Judge of the Common Pleas, several letters from her Serene Highness the Electress to his father, that shew how much he was trusted, and his services approved of; with the original letter from that Princess to the Earl of Sunderland mentioned above. Judge Burnett was desirous to have those papers in his hands, as his father the Bishop was mentioned in them, and as he hoped for an occasion of employing them for the service of this son of Mr. Burnett, whom he knew and esteemed.”

Thus far the manuscript.—Judge Burnett died suddenly of a fit of apoplexy, soon after he received those papers, and the son of Mr. Burnett mentioned in them, never received any favour from the descendants of the Electress Sophia. His only son, the present Mr. Burnett of Kemnay, was at the Court of Berlin with

tion are Miltown, Alehousewell, Glenhead, Srapehard, &c.; of the latter are Craigearn, or Iron Stone, Lachintillie, or the Hillock of Sawins, &c. All these names are evidently expressive of the particular situation of the respective places, excepting Lachintillie, which very probably has been originally a nickname.

*Roads.*—There are only two public roads in this parish, the one leading to Aberdeen, the other to Inverury and Old Meldrum. They were originally made, and are kept in repair by the statute-labour.

*Wages, Prices, &c.*—Very little of the farm work is done by cottagers; the farmers, in general, employing unmarried men servants, who eat and lodge in their master's houses. Their wages are from 5l. to 7l. yearly; by far too high for the present state of agriculture in Aberdeenshire. Last season, 1s. a-day, besides victuals and lodging, was given to men for harvest work; and we heard of 2l. 10s. having been given as wages for the harvest, by lump, at no great distance from this district. This exorbitant price of farm-work is owing, as I had occasion to hint before, to the great and increasing demand for hands at the Aberdeen manufactories\*.

D d 2

*Antiquities*

with the late Sir Andrew Mitchell, as Secretary of Legation, and with him attended Frederic the Second, in all his campaigns during the famous 7 years war. When Mr. Burnett left Berlin, on the appointment of a successor to Sir Andrew, he brought with him an effort of royal genius, that deserves to be mentioned as a curiosity. It is a painting done by the father of the late King of Prussia, in a fit of the gout. It is now at Kemnay, and is a performance much suited to procure entire credit to the inscription at the foot of it; "Fredericus pinxit in tormentis."

\* The common wages of a day-labourer are 10d. in summer, and 6d. in winter,

*Antiquities.*—There are no remains of antiquity in this parish, but a long stone set on end, no person knows how or when \*.

*Proprietors, Stipend, School, &c.*—The Earl of Kintore, who is proprietor of two extensive farms, and Alexander Bur-

; nett,

ter, when he furnishes his own provisions; and 6d. in summer, and 4d. in winter, when he eats in the house of his employer. The wages of women servants have not as yet exceeded 2l. 10s. a-year; but they are likely to rise. Women ordinarily get 2l. in harvest.

*Expenses of a Labourer's Family.*—There is no day-labourer here who does not rent a small piece of ground, either of the proprietor or of a tenant, which enables him to keep a cow or two, to supply his family with milk, and to rear some young cattle almost every year. As it is not easy to estimate the advantages he derives from his little farm, it is difficult to ascertain exactly either his income or his expense. His wife and children are commonly fed and clothed with as much frugality as is consistent with any degree of comfort; and the children of both sexes are very early taught to knit stockings for the manufacturers.

*Price of Provisions.*—It is from the Aberdeen market chiefly that the parish is supplied with the little butcher-meat which is consumed in it. Meal is generally 1 d. or  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. the peck cheaper than in the Aberdeen market, and the ordinary price is regulated by the quantity to be sold in the country in general. Hence, it is of very great consequence, both to the sellers and consumers, that we have judicious corn-laws, if we must have corn-laws, the propriety of which is very disputable. Butter sells commonly for 7d. the pound, of 28 ounces. Hens from 6d. to 1s.

\* This stone measures about 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet above ground; how much below, cannot be ascertained, without incurring the risk of felling it. Its mean girth is 9 feet. There is no figure nor inscription upon it, and no appearance of hewing. The smaller end is uppermost, unlike another stone, of much the same description in all other respects, which has been erected near the border between this parish and Cluny, and stands on the smaller end. As these stones cannot be supposed to have been parts of Druidical temples, it is not improbable that they have been erected in memory of some illustrious persons or events, or as monuments of solemn treaties between hostile nations or tribes. Tradition is entirely silent upon the subject.

sett, Esq. of Kemnay, are the only heritors of the parish. Mr. Burnett resides in it. The living is 30l. 16s. 8d. Sterling of money, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  stone the boll, and 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of bear, which, with the glebe, may amount to nearly 60l. a-year. The Earl of Kintore is patron. The manse was built in 1680, by Dr. James Willox, then minister of Kemnay, and at his sole expense\*. The church is 48 years older than the manse. It was new roofed, plastered, and adorned in the inside, with great taste and elegance, by the late Mr. Burnett of Kemnay; but the walls are not likely to stand long.—There is a tolerable school-house here †.

The

\* The Bishop of Aberdeen and his assessors had, upon Dr. Willox's petition, appointed a new manse at Kemnay, which was built by the heritors, and pronounced sufficient by the Bishop and his presbyters. But Dr. Willox was so much displeased with it, that he immediately began to build a house for himself, which was finished in 1680, as appears from the inscription over the entry, which contains his own and his wife's name, and the date of the building. The house built by the heritors was converted into a barn, and continued to be occupied as such till the year 1786, when it made way for a new brew-house, all the offices having been new built in that year. The walls of the manse are built of stone and mortar. They are very thick, and plastered on the inside with clay. It was, when it was built, and many years after, so much superior in every respect to the other manses in this part of Scotland, that from its singularity, and from the circumstance of the minister having been at the expense of the building, it was long known by the name of Castle Folly. The floors and roof have been occasionally repaired; but no addition to it has been made. And yet, though there is not so much room in it as in modern manses, it is still no uncomfortable house.

† State of the Parish in 1782 and 1783.—I did not reside in Kemnay during those two years. But from occasional visits to it, which were pretty frequent, I learned that a great number of the inhabitants were in extreme distress, owing to the lateness of the harvest, and the unexampled severity of the season in 1782, and the impossibility of procuring good feed in spring 1783. Scarcely any of the corns were ripened here, before the frost came on in 1782. The majority of the inhabitants lived on pease and barley-meal, imported at

Aberdeen.

The schoolmaster's living, by the account of the present incumbent, including the parochial salary, the interest of some legacies, school-fees, and all other emoluments, does not, one year with another, exceed 8*l.* Sterling a-year.

**N U M.**

Aberdeen. The poor got some part of the supply that was given by Government to the northern counties ; and the kirk-session bought some grain, which was sold to the poor considerably below prime cost. No person died of want.

NUMBER XVIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF GLENMUICK, TULLOCH, AND GLENGAIRN.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NEIL.)

*By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE BROWN.*

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*Situation, Heritors, Extent, Surface, &c.*

THESE united parishes are about 40 statute miles W. of Aberdeen, which is the nearest post town. The heritors are the Earl of Aboyne, the sole patron, James Farquharson, Esq. of Invercauld, William Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltrie, Charles Gordon, Esq. of Abergeldie, William Macdonald, Esq. of St Martin's, Captain John Macdonald of Gairnsdale, and John Erskine, Esq. of Achalstar. Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie, and Captain Macdonald, are the only residing heritors. These parishes form a very irregular figure, and are about 18 miles in length, and 15 in breadth, and are intersected by the Dee, a large and rapid river, abounding with

with salmon, and trouts of different kinds. The country is mountainous, and, in the upper parts, very stormy in winter.

*Agriculture, &c.—* The soil, in general, is hot and shallow, but produces good grain, though proportionably little fodder. Sowing begins about the middle or end of March, and reaping about the middle or end of August, except in the upper parts of the parishes, where the soil is cold and wet, and there seed-time and harvest may be 2 or 3 weeks later. The crops are bear, oats, rye, pease, potatoes, and small quantities of flax. The arable ground bears but a small proportion to the surrounding mountains, which afford excellent pasture for sheep; and the people have hitherto paid much more attention to their flocks than to their farms. Agriculture may be said to be only in its infancy here; but it is capable of very great improvements. And if the inhabitants would adopt and persevere in that spirit of industry which is beginning to appear among a few of them, I have not the least doubt but that, in a few years, they would be independent of other countries for grain. Several things, indeed, are against them; their country is open, and winter-herding is not known, or, at least, it is looked upon as an intolerable grievance, and therefore not practised; many of them have no leases on their possessions, and the others but short ones: and, which perhaps is worst of all, being accustomed from their infancy to a pastoral life, they contract a habit of indolence incompatible with a good farmer. From the time that harvest is over, which is generally about the middle of October, they neither yoke a plough, nor do any thing about their farms till the seed time comes on, when man, woman, and child are employed in huddling over the work in the most superficial manner. And when the bustle of sowing is over, all concern about the farm is

again

again laid aside till harvest begins. I speak this in general; there are a few excepted who pay more attention, and whose farms make them very grateful returns. Their farms, or rather crofts, are by far too small, few of them exceed 12, and, in general, they are from 5 to 8 acres. It occurs to me, that the best means for improving the country, and exciting a spirit of industry among the people, would be to annex 2 or 3 farms together, and to have none under 20 or 30 acres, to grant leases of 19 years at least, to give the tenant encouragement to enclose, and trench balks, &c. and even to give him for some time a small premium for the acre of good turnips, or hay raised after turnips. This would have a tendency to raise a spirit of emulation, which would turn to the advantage both of the proprietor and tenant. By managing their ground in this way, the face of the country would be improved; a sufficiency of grain raised; and the flocks better supported in form than they are at present. For one acre of hay or turnips would go farther in that way, than all the fodder that grows upon some of their small farms by the present management. I am aware of one objection against reducing the number of farms, and that is, that it would reduce the number of inhabitants also. This, no doubt, in some degree, might be the case: but if every tenant should be allowed 3 or 4 sub-tenants, who might be usefully employed about the farm, or in looking after the flocks, the decrease of population would be very little, if any at all. But I leave it to those who are more interested to determine, whether it be better to allow the country to remain in its present unimproved state, and to foster the indolence of the people, or to lead them on by industry to improve the country, and their own circumstances.

Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie's farm of Birkhall is an instance of what the ground in this country is capable of producing,

when properly managed. He took this farm, which consists of nearly 100 acres arable, and about the same number of pasture among natural wood, into his own hands only a few years ago ; he enclosed and subdivided it with stone-fences and hedges, levelled and straighted the fields ; trenched up balks, and drained marshes ; and now raises from it bear, oats, pease, potatoes, turnips and hay, of as good quality as any in Aberdeenshire. The acre, after turnips, yields at an average, 8 bushels of bear, and the whole of the farm, under crop, gives the 6th return. His garden produces as early, and well flavoured fruit as any in the N. of Scotland ; apples, pears, plumbs, cherries, gooseberries, &c.—And while Mr. Gordon farms to advantage, he has not lost sight of neatness and elegance ; he has cleared away the rubbish of nature about his villa, and displayed her beauties, which are many, to the best advantage. But the example of Mr. Gordon, or of any gentleman, will never be attended with any good consequences to the tenants ; they look upon all that he has done as the sole effect of money, and far beyond their reach. And until some active enterprising genius among themselves steps forward and sets the example, they will never go out of the old track ; and this cannot be expected till they get leases upon their possessions. But if ever they shall be brought to pay more attention to their ground, I am certain a regard to their own interest will make them persevere ; for the climate is temperate, and the soil, though thin, is early and fertile. But while I accuse the men of indolence, I should do great injustice to the women, if I did exempt them from the charge ; by whose industry and diligence their families are in a great measure supported. Their chief employment is spinning flax, sent up by some manufacturers from Aberdeen, which brings a great deal of money into the country. During the summer months, ma-

ny of them manufacture their own wool into coarse blue, or tartan webs, which sell at 2 s., or 2 s. 6 d. the ell.

*Manners, &c.*—The people are honest, economical, sober, contented, and hospitable; very regular in attending upon divine worship, and warmly attached to their country; their language is English, except in the upper parts of the parishes of Tulloch and Glengairn, where some of them use a barbarous dialect of the Gaelic among themselves, but they all understand the English. Their size, in general, is from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 8 inches high; they are stout made, healthy, and capable of great fatigue. Fevers of different kinds prevail sometimes; but there is no disease peculiar to the country. The air is pure and dry, and reckoned very wholesome: and yet there is only one instance of extreme old age remembered here. A John Mitchell, aged 124, born in the parish of Glenmuick in 1598, and died in 1722; the date of his birth and death is still very legible on his tomb-stone. The fuel used here is peats and turfs from the adjacent hills; they are both good of their kinds, but attended with great expense, as they lie at the back of very steep mountains.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 2270. At present the population, &c. is as follows:

Population,	-	2117	Papists,	-	-	354
Protestants,	-	1763	Males *,	-	-	965
E c a						Females,

\* That the number of males should be so much less than that of the females, is owing to many of the young men going to the South and Low Countries to service, because they cannot get employment at home.

Females,	-	-	1152	Square wrights,	-	16
Infants below 10 years				Millers,	-	8
of age,	-		279	Tailors,	-	15
Families,	-		476	Weavers,	-	18
Persons, at an average, in a family, nearly	-		5	Shoemakers,	-	4
Births, at an average, for 23 years,	-		34	Blacksmiths,	-	7
Marriages, at an average, for 16 years,	-		14	Merchants,	-	9
Bachelors above 50 years,	14			Schoolmasters,	-	3
Unmarried women above 45,	-	-	56	Children and young people learning reading, writ- ing, and arithmetic,	236	
Persons above 50,	-		283	Taverns,	-	8
Above 70,	-		71	Black cattle,	-	1563
Above 80,	-		29	Horses †,	-	716
Above 90.	-	-	2	Sheep,	-	13,263
Above 100 *.	-		1	Ploughs yoked,	-	208
Widows,	-		70	Carts,	-	61
Widowers,	-		43	Carriage,	-	1
Men servants,	-		63	Bolls of oats sown,	-	971
Maid servants,	-		87	Bear,	-	407
Masons,	-	-	4	Potatoes planted,	-	61
				Acres under turnips in the field,	-	8

L. sh. d.

L. sh. d.

Men servants wages

A day-labourer, with

for the year,

his victuals, - o o 6

Womens ditto,

Do. without victuals, o o 9

A woman

\* This old woman said to be 102, died lately, since the table was made out.

† The generality of the horses here, are of the small Highland breed, very hardy, and easily supported. There are some of the tenants who keep better horses; and Abergeldie's are valued at from 28l. to 30l. Sterling each; but none of these are included in the above valuation.

	L. 9	L. sh. d.
A woman makes for spinning flax a week,	-	Value of best sheep, 0 14 0
Meal the boll, at an average,	9 15	Ordinary ditto, 0 7 6
		Worst ditto, 0 3 4
		Cattle, at an average, 3 10 0
		Horses, at an average, 5 0 0

	B. F. P.	B. F. P.
Produce of oats, the boll,	3 0 0	Produce of bear, the boll,

Valued rent of the three parishes, 3384 l. 16 s. 8d. Scots money.

*Poor, &c.*—The poors funds here, are the interest of 160 l. mortified money, which is lent out at 5 per cent., the weekly collections, and an annual donation from Invercauld, of from 10 l. to 12 l. Sterling. From which 93 poor receive aid. A Mrs. Elizabeth Farquharson, late of Jamaica, and a native of the parish of Tulloch, bequeathed at her death, which happened between 20 and 30 years since, 400 l. Sterling for the benefit of the poor here, and the like sum to keep a school and schoolmaster in these parishes. There were 4 trustees appointed to execute this part of her will; but somehow or other it was neglected for upwards of 20 years, when at last one of the trustees who had friends in Jamaica, recovered the 400 l. of principal, and 200 l. of interest; and the 600 l. have now been in the bank at Aberdeen for several years; but the parishes have as yet received no benefit from them. It surely could not have been the intention of the testator, that the money should be so long in being applied to the purposes it was designed for.

*Glenmuick Parish.*—*Glean muc*, are two Gaelic words, which signify the “Sow’s Valley,” from which it should seem, that that animal had some time run wild here, as none are now kept by the inhabitants. This parish is about 15 miles in length, and lies entirely on the S. side of Dee. The present manse and glebe stand in this parish on the N. bank of the small river Muick, about 200 yards from its junction with the Dee. The manse is an old house, small, but in tolerable repair. The glebe, by a late addition, contains  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres. The stipend, including the small tithes of the parish of Tulloch, is 67 l. 12 s. Sterling, all in money. The church of Glenmuick stands close by the manse. It is a very old house thatched with heath. It seems to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from an annual meeting of the inhabitants on Candlemas day. There is a parochial school here, with a salary of 100 merks in money. The small river Muick takes its rise in the Grampian hills, from a large lake or loch of the same name, S. W. of the church, and after forming a large water-fall, called the Lin of Muick, is lost in the Dee, after a course of 10 miles. Across the Muick, and near the church, there is a very useful and substantial stone bridge of one arch, built about 50 years ago by subscription, and about half a mile below the church, a beautiful bridge of three large arches; and a small one at each end, called the Bridge of Ballatar, was lately built by subscription, and other contributions, under the patronage of the late Francis Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltrie; a gentleman who has left many lasting monuments of his public spirit in this country. In this parish are the celebrated wells of Pananich, on the N. side of a hill of the same name, about 2 miles E. of the church \*.

They

\* They were discovered accidentally to be of use, about 33 years since, by an old woman living in the neighbourhood, who had for many years been distressed

They are a mineral of a very agreeable taste, light water, and allowed to be of use in gravelish, scorbatic, and scrofulous complaints. The wells being the property of the gentleman, already mentioned (Mr. Farquharson) he cleared out the springs, which are three, and covered them; and erected not only several houses upon the spot for the accommodation of the water drinkers, as a public and private bath, an octagon for the better sort to retire to, and several houses for sheltering the poor; but also built a large and commodious house called Pananich Lodge, pleasantly situated upon the banks of the Dee, about a mile W. of the wells, containing a large public room, and a number of private ones, with accommodation for servants and horses, which, with a tolerable farm, and the houses at the wells, is let to a landlady at 50 l. yearly, who has the good fortune to give universal satisfaction to the company who visit her. Mr. Farquharson likewise made out good roads on both sides of the wells to the public road: nor did he confine himself to this spot; he paid particular attention to the roads wherever he had the least concern; he made new, repaired old ones, and threw stone arches over several small, but rapid rivulets, which, when flooded, were often impassable, at his own private expense. In a word,  
possessed

treffed with scrofulous sores; and who, after being reduced almost to the last stage of weakness and decrepitude, took a fancy (for she had no expectations of a cure) to crawl upon her crutches every good day to the wells, which were then a bog remarkable only for the blueish scum on the surface of the water; here she bathed her sores, and laid rags dipped in the water upon them; and persevering in this course for some time, she was agreeably surprised to see her sores heal up, and to find her health and strength return. This brought the wells into immediate repute. And the country people absurdly imagined that they were an infallible cure for every disorder, and persons under all complaints crowded to them; fatal experience, however, soon taught them that they were hostile to consumptive habits.

possessed of an ample fortune and generous mind, he employed both in improving his country \*.

*Tulloch Parish.*—Tulloch is a corruption of *Tulach*, a Gaelic word, signifying “rising grounds or hillocks;” and is very descriptive of the small village of Tulloch, which gives name to the church and parish. The church is said to have been founded by St. Nethalen, and an annual meeting of the inhabitants is regularly kept on the 8th of January, in honour of his memory. It is termed the Mother Church, and stands (as the whole parish does) on the N. side of Dee, about 2 miles N. E. of the church of Glenmuick. This parish is the most populous and extensive of the 3, and by a list of the religious houses in Scotland, seems to have belonged in whole, or in part, to the Knights Templar. It is 18 miles in length from E. to W., and intersected at the Crags of Ballatar, by the parish of Glengairn, which divides the lower parts of Tulloch from the upper. It does not appear that there has been any settled minister, particularly in this parish, since the last Popish Priest, of the name of Sandifon, who is said to have conformed at the Reformation, and afterward married: some of his posterity are still in the neighbourhood. The glebe and toft of the manse are still pointed out; but the minister now has no benefit from either. In the lower end of

this

\* *Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are two ruins in this parish, the one stands about a mile N. W. of the church called the Castle of the Cnoe, a Gaelic word, signifying a hill upon the top of which the ruin stands. It belongs to Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie, and is of a very old date. The other stands in the E. extremity of the parish called Dee Castle, formerly Candacorl, the Head of the Wood, said to be built by the family of Gordon, and now the property of the Earl of Aboyne. There is a birch tree growing in a room of the ruin where the first Marquis of Huntly is said to have been born. It is said, that there is a rock of coarse marble in the hill above Pananich Lodge, and another above Birkhall.

this parish, and at the foot of the hill of Culblean, there is a beautiful lake of about 3 miles in circumference, called Loch Cannor, containing several small islands, upon the largest of which, there stood formerly a small fortress, said to have been built, and occasionally occupied as a hunting seat by Malcolm Canmore; from whom, it is not improbable, the lake might have got its name; as Cannor is not far in sound from Canmore. In this fortress, many of the Cumings took shelter after their defeat in the famous battle of Culblean, fought between them and the troops of King David Bruce in 1335. There is now no appearance of the fortress, the stones are all cleared out and thrown into the surrounding lake; and the island, which measures near an acre, is under culture. The people in the neighbourhood, some years since, were in use to drag up large planks of oak from the bottom of that part of the lake between the island and main land on the N. side, evidently part of a draw-bridge which connected the island with the land; the wood was perfectly fresh and wholesome; and upon one of the planks there was this date, 1113, which is now in the possession of a gentleman in this neighbourhood. There is another island smaller than the former, and at some distance from it, which tradition says, was the prison of the castle, and which goes to this day by the name of the Tol-booth. The principal island where the fortress or castle stood, is about 60 or 70 yards distant from the land; and the water between them, where the draw-bridge was, is 16 feet deep. The lake abounds with pike and eels. Wild ducks, wild geese, and sometimes swans, frequent it in winter. There is a stone set on its end on the N. bank of the lake fronting the castle, with a great deal of carving upon it; but the figures are now unintelligible. It is told, that it was put up in memory of some of the Cumings who fell in the chase or battle

of Culblean, and as the Earl of Athole fell that day, it may have been here\*.

*Glengairn Parish*.—Glengairn is a corruption of 3 Gaelic words, *glean*, “a valley or hollow,” and *garbh ambain*, “the rough water,” which are very properly applied to the water of Gairn, the channel of which, in many places is exceedingly rocky. The church stands on the N. side of Dee, and at the influx of the Gairn into that river about 2 miles W. of Tulloch, and nearly the same distance N. of the church of Glenmuick. This church seems to have been dedicated to St. Mungo, from an annual meeting of the parishioners on the 13th of January. Some say, that this was a separate charge about the middle of the last century, when a Mr. Alexander Gordon, a proprietor in the parish, was minister; but neither the glebe, nor where the manse stood, can now be pointed out. This parish is the least, and most compact of the 3. The greatest part of it lies upon both banks of the Gairn, extending 6 miles N. W. of the church, where the upper parts of Tulloch begin and separate it from the parish of Crathie. A small part of it lies on the S. side of Dee, call-

ed

\* In the fore mentioned hill of Culblean, there is a most remarkable hollow rock, which, from its shape, bears the name of the Vatt, and through which a rivulet runs. In going up to visit this natural curiosity, a stranger is much struck with the narrowness of the entry to the Vatt (being less than an ordinary door) and the large spacious area, in which he immediately finds himself enclosed by rocks from 50 to 60 feet high, and from the fissures of which tall and healthy birch trees are growing. There is one particular clift of the rock which the eagle generally occupies as a safe and secure asylum for hatching and nourishing her young, and where her nest is always to be seen. The rivulet falls down at the upper end through broken shattered rocks, and when flooded, adds greatly to the picturesque appearance of the whole. The most remarkable hill in this, or the 3 parishes, is Morven, which in Gaelic signifies a large hill; and the well known crags or Paws of Ballatar, where the tremendous impending rocks threaten the astonished traveller with immediate destruction.

ed Strathgirnie. There are 2 of the Society's schools in this parish, and are an unspeakable advantage to the people: I am told that 60 or 70 years ago, it was rare to find one in all these three parishes who could read. But now all the young people read distinctly, and understand the principles of religion; and many of the young men leave school, and immediately enter as clerks to commercial companies in different corners of the world. And it is but just to observe, that much of this is owing to the labours of Mr. George Thomson, who has served the Society about 50 years, during which time he has taught, with the greatest honour to himself, and advantage to his pupils. The people, in general, have got a taste for education, and as the parishes are extensive, they engage young men to teach in the winter season in those places which are at a distance from the established schools. Three young men, engaged by the people, taught in different corners this last winter.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—At the church of Glengairn, there is a very old stone bridge of one arch over Gairn, and there is another over the same river at the N. W. extremity of the parish, and 6 miles from the former, built by Government upon one of the Highland roads; both are in good repair. There is another of one arch over the burn of Girnie, built a few years since by subscription. There is a river in the lower end of this parish, near the Pass of Ballatar, called the Castle of Glengairn. It belonged to the family of Forbes, and was used as a hunting seat. It is now the property of the Earl of Aboyne.—A Popish Priest resides in this parish, and performs divine worship every ad Sunday, in a chapel built for the purpose.—It is believed there is a lead-mine near the castle of Glengairn; many pieces of lead have been found; but from the expense of working it, no exer-

tions have been made to find out the vein of the metal. There is plenty of lime-stone in this and the other two parishes; but from the difficulty of getting fuel, there is not much of it burnt. The mountains in the 3 parishes are all covered with heath, and the bottoms of many of them beautifully fringed with natural wood and plantations. Plots of natural birch, oak, ash, alder, &c. are interspersed among the arable fields; which, with the rivers, give the country a very pleasant appearance in summer. The hills afford plenty of moor game, particularly Morven, upon the highest grounds of which, ptarmagans are always to be found \*.

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\* The most remarkable of the other wild creatures, are red and roe deer, foxes, badgers, wild cats, polecats, martins, weasels, otters, white and grey hares; eagles and lesser hawks; the black cock, wood cock, wood pecker, plovers, partridges, &c. with a great variety of singing birds.

The charge is served by the minister, and a missionary minister, who has a salary of 25 l. from the Committee on the Royal Bounty. And, besides the 3 churches, there is another place of worship at the upper bridge of Gairn, where the missionary is appointed by the Committee to preach every 2d Sabbath; and by these means there can be sermon but once in the 2 weeks in each of the places of worship, which is very much complained of by the people. But, as a central church would remove this grievance, so no place can be better adapted for one; for the 3 churches immediately form nearly an equilateral triangle of 4 miles each side; and if a large house should be built near the middle of this angle, the bulk of the 3 parishes would be accommodated with sermon every Sabbath, and the missionary would preach in the remote corners. This plan has been long in the view of the heritors; and, as 2 of the churches are going fast into disrepair, it is to be hoped they will soon carry it into execution.

## NUMBER XIX.

## TOWN AND PARISH OF KINGHORN.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN USHER.**Situation, Name, Extent, Soil, &c.*

THE town of Kinghorn, is pleasantly situated upon a declivity on the N. side of the Frith of Forth, nearly opposite to the town of Leith, and distant from it about 7 miles. At what time this town was first built, it is perhaps, impossible for us, at present, to determine. It is not improbable, that the aborigines of the country, would settle here, at a very early period, for the conveniency of fishing \*, even before either commerce, or agriculture, or pasturage, had become objects of attention to their uncultivated minds. However this may be, it is next to certain, that when Edinburgh began to rise into a capital, and to become a place of resort, fishermen

\* There was formerly a considerable quantity of fish caught between the town of Kinghorn and the island of Inch-Keith; but of late the fish have retired nearer to the mouth of the Frith.

fishermen and sailors would naturally be induced to build and take up their residence here for the sake of serving the passage between Fife and Leith, the port of Edinburgh \*. With respect to the origin of the name of this town, we have not been able to discover any thing certain, and will therefore venture to offer a conjecture. Upon a rising ground, immediately behind the town, overlooking it, and commanding a view of the whole Frith of Forth, from Kinghorn downwards, and of all the opposite coast, there formerly stood a castle, the ruins of which were very lately to be seen, which was one of the ordinary seats of our ancient Kings. This place of residence was probably chosen by the Scottish Monarchs, not only for the sake of the prospect which it commands, and the salubrity of the air, but for the convenience and pleasure of hunting. For, tradition says, and the names of places in the neighbourhood confirm it (such as Woodfield-park, and Kingswood-end †) that the ground behind the town, and to the westward, was once covered with wood. From the winding, therefore, of the King's horn, when sallying out with his attendants to take the diversion of the chase,

\* In confirmation of this, we may observe, that the part of the town which stands upon the sea-shore, and nearest to the harbour, is evidently the oldest. So early, as about the middle of the 11th century, in the reign of Duncan I. we are informed that Canutus King of Norway, sent a large fleet with 900 men, commanded by his brother, who landing at Kinghorn, over-ran and ravaged the adjacent country; but that M'Beath, Thane of Fife (with whose character and history every admirer of the imitable Shakespeare must be in some measure acquainted) attacked and defeated them with great slaughter, forcing the survivors to retire to their ships. It was not, however, till near a century after this, that the town of Kinghorn was invested with the privileges of a royal burgh, by King David I.

† Woodfield-park, Kingswood-end. The former of these is a farm about a mile to the W. of the town, the latter is a high and rugged rock, at much about the same distance from the town, and on the same side of it, where King Alexander III. was killed by a fall from his horse when hunting in this forest.

chase, the town of Kinghorn may have derived the name which it still bears.

The parish of Kinghorn is about 4 miles in length, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. It is bounded by the Frith of Forth on the S. and E.\*. Few places are more beautifully diversified than the face of this parish. It exhibits, it is true, neither lofty mountains nor deep valleys; neither high hills, nor extensive plains; but there is a variety of soil and of surface, and an undulation of ground, which is very seldom to be met with. The long extended fides of little hills covered with furze, ever-green, and almost always in bloom, or planted with young and thriving trees of different kinds; the rich and fertile land that lies between the great number of gentlemen's seats and farmer's houses, with trees and enclosures around them, and with here and there a ruin interspersed, as mementos of the vicissitude of human things, present to the eye a most picturesque and fanciful scene, and produce upon the imagination the finest effect. The soil is, in general, very good, being mostly a rich black earth upon a rotten rock. Along the sea-coast, for upwards of 2 miles, it is deep, strong, and fertile in the highest degree. As you retire from the sea, it gradually becomes more and more light and shallow, for about a mile, as the ground rises. Behind this, the ground begins to fall, and the nature of the soil becomes more variable, being some of it inclined to clay, upon a whin-stone bottom, but most of it, thin and light upon a dry gravel. Almost every where throughout the whole parish, it is sharp and very fertile, when properly managed.

*Antiquities, Natural Curiosities, and Mineral Waters.—*  
There can scarcely be said to be any antiquities within the  
bounds

\* The extent of sea-coast is about 3 English miles, the greater part of it is high and rocky, and produces very little kelp.

bounds of this parish, unless perhaps the ruinous tower of Seafield, the ancient seat of the Moutrays, which stands upon the sea-shore, about a mile to the eastward of Kinghorn ; and St. Leonard's tower, which stands in the middle of the town, which in times of Popery was a place of worship, but is now converted into a town-house and common prison, deserve to be so called. Glammis tower, a seat of our ancient kings, already alluded to, is now no more ; and as for the monastery which stood somewhere about the bottom of the town, there is not so much as a vestige of it to be seen, and even the place where once it was, cannot be ascertained. At a little distance from the ruins of Seafield tower, there is a large cave, which appears either to have been formed by some violent concussion of the earth, or to have been excavated by the sea, which has since retired. There is the appearance of some kind of building having been once at its entrance ; but whether it had been thus fortified and secured as a place of refuge from the sudden descents of the Danes and Norwegians, with which this coast was formerly so much infested, or, as a den for thieves and robbers, and as a place for concealing their ill-got booty, we have not been able to discover. About half way between Kiaghorn and the Petty-cur \*, close by the sea, there is a specimen of the Basaltes, which well deserves the attention of the curious, who may not have had an opportunity of surveying those more stupendous works of nature of the same kind, the Giants Causeway, in the county of Antrim in Ireland, or the rock Perenneire near St. Sandoux in Auvergne, in France. The Basaltic columns are of different diameters, with between 4, 5, 6, 7, faces. They are, in general, about 12 or 14 feet in height,

\* Petty-cur, a small harbour for the passage-boats at the distance of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile from the town, to the S. W.

height, with a few joints or cracks in each, all parallel to one another, and inclining towards the sea, to the E. The stream of lava, of which this mass of matter is composed, appears to have flowed from W. to E., and pouring into the sea, in this direction, from its impulse and resistance, to have cooled, and chrystalized, and taken the easterly inclination which it holds. At a little distance from the Petty-curt, there is a medicinal spring, commonly called the Kinghorn Spa \*.

Upon Inch-Keith, a small island about half way between Kinghorn and Leith, and which is considered as belonging to this parish, there are the ruins of a fort which was in repair in the reign of Mary Queen of Scotland, and which was then garrisoned with French soldiers.

*Population.*—Upon comparing the late with the present state of the population of this parish, the number of inhabitants appears to have decreased to a considerable degree. According to the returns made to Dr. Webster in the 1755, the number of souls within the bounds of this parish, was 2389. It now amounts to no more than 1768, including persons of

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every

\* In the year 1618, the celebrated Dr. Anderson, inventor of the pills that still go by his name, wrote a Treatise upon the nature and properties of this water, with directions for using it.

It is impregnated, he says, with chrystral, gypsum, and nitre; is a powerful diuretic, gives vigour and strength to debilitated constitutions, relieves such as are troubled with a difficulty of breathing, and allayeth all inflammations internal and external; that it ought to be taken in the morning fasting, and taken at the rock from which it issues.

But, for farther particulars, both with respect to the nature and properties of this water, and the way of using it, we must refer the reader to the foresaid Treatise. We shall only add, that Dr. Anderson concludes his account of it, with informing us, that in his time, "this fair spring" was much frequented; and that he himself had many opportunities of observing its salutary effects, from his attending patients that were drinking the water.

every age and denomination \*. Of the present inhabitants of this parish, there are 1118, that reside in the town, and 650 that dwell in the country, and in a village called the Bridgetown, about 2 miles N. E. from Kinghorn. Of these, there are 1237 that adhere to the Established Church, the remaining 531, are Seceders of different denominations, but mostly Burghers. Of the whole body of the people, both in the town and country, there are, under 10 years of age, 401; between 10 and 20, 321; between 20 and 50, 778; between 50 and 70, 240: and between 70 and 100, 28. The number of married people amounts to 610; of bachelors, to 295; of unmarried women from the age of 15 and upwards, to 323; of widows, to 102; and of widowers, to 33. The number of marriages for the last 10 years, amounts, at an average, to 13; and that of births, to 30 annually. To account for the seeming disproportion between the marriages and births, and the population of this parish, we may observe, that there are annually, several irregular marriages, and several baptisms (particularly among the Seceders) that are not entered in the parish register. The inhabitants of the town, and of the village called Bridgetown, are mostly sailors, weavers,  
tradesmen,

\* As we do not find, that by the return given in to Dr. Webster, above mentioned, a distinction was made between the population of the town, and of the country, it is impossible for us now to discover with certainty, where the deficiency lies; whether in the one, or in the other; or supposing it in both, in what proportion it has taken place. We are disposed to think that it is principally in the latter; and that it may be accounted for, from the following causes:—1<sup>st</sup>, From the diminution of landed proprietors residing in the parish; several small estates having been swallowed up by the larger. 2<sup>dly</sup>, From the union of farms. 3<sup>dly</sup>, And principally from the expulsion of cottagers, and from the employing of hired servants in their stead, for carrying on the operations of husbandry. What the town may have lost in respect of population, from the decay of its trade, we consider as compensated by the growth of manufactures, as will afterward appear under the article of commerce.

tradesmen, innkeepers, and horse-hirers ; those of the country, farmers, their children, and servants, who are employed in agriculture.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—There are two places of public worship in the town of Kinghorn ; the parish church, and a Burgher-seceder meeting-house. The Earl of Strathmore is patron of the parish. The stipend consists of 3 chalders of victual, half meal, half bear, and 58 l. 6 s. 8 d. in money, together with 4 loads of coal, deliverable at the manse, and the teind of the fish : The last of these articles has failed entirely, as there is no more at present, but one family of fishers in the town, and the quantity of fish caught so small, that the teind thereof is not worth the trouble or expense of collecting it.

There is also mentioned in the decree of modification and locality of the stipend of Kinghorn,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  loads of coal at the pit of Carden ; but as this pit is not now wrought, this part of the living has likewise failed. The glebe consists of very little more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of arable ground, with 10 s. a-year to compensate for the deficiency of measure ; and about an acre of grass, which lets at 16 s. 8 d. The manse is old, but got a thorough repair about 3 years ago, at a very considerable expense. The church was rebuilt in 1774. The shell of the house is respectable enough ; but within, it has rather an awkward and paltry appearance, from its not being as yet completely seated, and from the mixture of new, and of old pews and forms \*.

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\* The Burgher meeting-house was built about 16 years ago, partly by dissatisfied and discontented Seceders ; and partly by people belonging to the Established Church in this place, who did not think that the late incumbent, Dr. Webster, was sufficiently warm in his zeal against the Popish bill, which raised such a noise and clamour in this part of the country at that period.

The number of poor is great, and the funds for supporting them are, comparatively, but small. There are commonly between 60 and 80 upon the poor's roll; and for maintaining these, the whole sum to be distributed annually by the church-session, does not amount to 40 l. This sum arises partly from the interest of legacies left for the behoof of the poor; and partly from the collections that are made for them at the door of the parish church. The legacies amount to 500 l., 400 l. of which was bequeathed by the Rev. Mr. Henry, minister of this parish, before the late Dr. Webster; and 100 l. by a gentleman of the name of Shanks, who lived in Kinghorn; for both which, the church-session receives annually (at the rate of 4 per cent. interest) the sum of 20 l. The yearly collections do not come to quite so much; and of this the landed proprietors contribute but a very small proportion, as the greatest part of them do not reside in the parish, and as most of those that do, dwell at a distance from the parish church. The most which any pauper in the parish receives, (and indeed which the church-session have it in their power to give, as the heritors have not as yet agreed to assess themselves for the maintenance of the poor) is 1 s. a-month; and perhaps 3 s. 6 d. more at each of the quarterly distributions. This

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This house was at first connected with what is called the Presbytery of Relief; upon which footing it stood, till within these few years, when the proprietors of the house, finding their meeting upon the decline, and the seat-rents and collections unequal to the expence of supporting a clergyman, and of paying the interest of the money which they had advanced, they very prudently agreed to change their ground, to join themselves to the Burgher Seceders, and to give a call to a licentiate of that denomination. The bulk of what remained of their scattered congregation went along with them, and they were joined by others of the same class or sect, residing in the town and its neighbourhood. Amidst all these manoeuvres of their leaders, however, the name of a patron was not heard of. And it was all very well.

scanty supply is evidently inadequate to the exigencies of such as are unable to work ; the consequence of which is, that they must either beg, or steal, or starve. What others receive is proportionally less ; and thus, even the labour of such as could do a little, were the deficiency of their earnings to be made up to them by regular supplies, is lost to the community, from their being forced by necessity to have recourse to begging ; after which, every idea of labour and industry is at an end \*.

*Commerce and Manufactures.*—The town of Kinghorn has 2 harbours ; one at the bottom of the town, which is called the Kirk-harbour, from its vicinity to the church, which stands upon a point of land close by it ; and another called the Petty-cur, at about half a mile's distance from the town to the S. W. The former of these is of very ancient date : How old

\* And here, by the way, we cannot help observing, that legacies left for the behoof of the poor, at least in parishes, where the law, with respect to the main, penance of the poor is not enforced, have a tendency to defeat the very end for which they were bequeathed. For that, trusting to these, the heritors of such parishes, are apt to neglect what the law, what reason, what religion and humanity so loudly call upon them for, viz. "to consider the cause of the poor." We would not be understood, from what we have here said, either to condemn, or discourage the donations of the charitable at the time of their death, to the poor of parishes to which they may belong, or to which they may be attached ; only let them be left in such a way, as to be distributed immediately, and not be hung up, so as to intercept that provision which the wisdom and benevolence of our Legislature has made for them. Having had occasion to mention legacies, we may here observe, that the foresaid Mr. Henry bequeathed the sum of 300 l. for the purpose of founding a bursary, to assist young men, in the prosecution of their studies, at the University of St. Andrew's. The nomination of the bursar is vested in 3 bodies of men ; the magistrates and town-council of Kinghorn, the kirk-session of Kinghorn, and the presbytery of Kirkcaldy. Each of these 3 bodies choose a delegate out of their own number ; the delegates meet by appointment of the minister of Kinghorn, and, after having examined the qualifications of the candidates, proceed to the election. The bursar enjoys his benefice for 4 years.

old it is, we cannot certainly say.. The latter was built about 30 years ago, as being a more convenient situation than that of the former, for the passage over to Leith. This harbour was lately very much choked up, and in danger of being lost, from the great quantity of sand continually drifting from the W. at low water, with the westerly winds, and accumulating within it. But by means of 2 basons, the largest of which was only finished within these few months, (the former having been found insufficient for the purpose), it is now thought that this bank of sand will be completely removed, and the harbour be kept clear of it, and open for the future. Within these few months also, there has been a light-house erected upon the end of this key, for the benefit of the passage-boats. It is, however, the opinion of many, that had the money which has been expended upon the Petty-cut, and its basons, been laid out upon the extending of the key, and upon the otherwise improving of the old harbour, not only all the purposes of the Ferry might have been equally well answered, but a safe and capacious basin might have been formed, for the admission of ships of considerable burthen. As they are at present, neither the one nor the other will admit vessels of above 150 tons. Should ever Kinghorn become a great manufacturing and commercial town, this plan might still be put in execution. Hitherto, it cannot be said to have ever been either. Formerly, indeed, there were a few brigs, and several sloops belonging to this town ; but these were generally either freighted by merchants residing in other places, or engaged in smuggling. At present there are only two small sloops employed in the coasting trade, that sail from this port, with 9 passage-boats, of about 50 or 60 tons each, and a few pinnaces that ply the ferry. As for manufactures, though till of late, since the introduction of stocking-frames, there was, for a long time, a considerable quantity of thread-stockings

ings, manufactured annually by the women, with the kitting-needle, yet it was always but an unprofitable, and poor employment. Within these few years, however, a manufacture has sprung up, which promises fair at present to render Kinghorn one of the most flourishing towns upon the coast of Fife; this is, the teasing, and rolling, and spinning of cotton and flax, by means of the Arkwright and Darlington machinery.

Through the middle of the town there runs a stream of water, which issues from a lake called the loch of Kinghorn, and distant from it only about half a mile. Upon this stream there have already been erected, and set a-going, 4 mills for the purposes above mentioned; a fifth is to be built this summer, and there might still be falls of water found for 1 or 2 more. The number of hands which these mills will employ, must amount to some hundreds; but the 2 largest of them, which were built last season, owing to the shock which has been lately given to public credit, and the consequent stagnation of all business, have not as yet been completely fitted up, and filled with machinery by the proprietors. Before adventuring too far, they wish to see what turn affairs may take. Already, however, the beneficial effects of these works are to be seen by all; and they are sensibly felt by almost every description of people in the place.

Young women, who before were not able to earn by the needle, or by the knitting of stockings, or by the spinning of flax, above 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. in the week, can now easily earn between 5 s. and 7 s. 6 d. in the same space of time. Little girls, between 8 and 12 years of age, who before were a burden to their fathers and mothers, by engaging at these works, are not only able to support themselves, but to assist their aged and indigent parents. The boys, who before thought of nothing but the sea, or of running about idle, or, which was little better, of running about the country at the horses's heels,

as horse-hirers servants, have now generally turned their attention to the loom, and bind themselves as apprentices to the weaver. Such are the effects of capital well employed ! Such are the effects of regular and well directed industry ! But the command of water for working machinery, is not the only advantage which Kinghorn enjoys : Besides the stream already mentioned, there are two other rivulets, one at each end of the town, by means of which bleachfields might be formed, and, it is to be hoped, will in a little time be formed, for further facilitating the operations of the manufacturer.

As a beginning has now been fairly made ; as a spirit of industry and of enterprise has now been roused, by the exertions of a few active individuals, it is to be hoped, that it will continue to spread, and will soon begin to operate in other directions. The cheapness of coal for fuel, and of lime for building ; its vicinity to the sea, and to the capital of this part of the kingdom, might also have been mentioned among the advantages which Kinghorn derives from its local situation.

*Landholders, Rent and Division of Land.*—The number of landed proprietors in this parish is 13 ; but by far the greater part of them do not reside in it. There is no map of the parish ; by consequence, the number of acres which it contains cannot be exactly ascertained. But they amount to nearly 3050 arable, and 340 inarable. The greatest part of the latter is hill-ground, either covered with furze, or planted with trees. Of the former, there are, at an average, 170 acres annually employed in raising wheat, 397 in barley, 212 in pease and beans, which are commonly sown in drills ; 749 in oats, 148 in potatoes, 110 in turnip, 328 in hay, 836 in pasture, and 100 lying in summer fallow. The quantity of flax sown is so inconsiderable, as not to be worth the mentioning. A

great

great part of the land of this parish is now enclosed, either with hedge and ditch, or, what is called Galloway-dike. The farms are, in general, from 80 l. to 200 l. a-year, consisting of between 60 and 150 or 200 acres. The best arable ground in the neighbourhood of the town, has, of late, let at 3 l., and some of it at 3 l. 10 s. an acre. At a distance from the town, the average rent is about 1 l. 10 s. The best pasture lets at 2 l. 5 s., and the inferior kind, from 15 s. to 1 l. 1 s. the acre. The valued rent of the whole parish is 13,280 l. 18 s. 2 d. Scotch; the real rent about 3000 l. Sterling.

*Horses, Black Cattle, Ploughs and Carts.*—There are in this parish 250 horses, including young horses reared by the farmers in the country. About 70 of these horses are kept by people in the town for post-chaises, for letting out to hire, for carrying coals, and for labouring a few acres of ground, which most of them endeavour to get in the neighbourhood. There are 651 cows, and young cattle (exclusive of cattle grazed in parks during the summer), 99 carts and 91 ploughs, almost all of the Small-construction, and drawn by 2 horses; the old Scottish plough having now fallen into general disuse\*.

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School.

\* *Wages.*—From the rapid increase of manufactures in this, and some neighbouring parishes, the price of labour of every kind has risen to an uncommon height. The wages of a male servant kept in the house, are from 8 l. to 10 l. a-year; those of female servants are generally 3 l. A labourer, for the day, goes from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d., finding his own provisions: For mowing and reaping, from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s., and sometimes 2 s. 6 d. Or, with breakfast and dinner, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.: And women from 9 d. to 1 s., with the same provisions.

*Effects of discontinuing Cottagers in Agriculture.*—One bad effect of this has been already alluded to; the decrease of the population of the country. This effect begins now to be felt, and lamented by the farmer, particularly in the neighbourhood of manufacturing towns. In this whole parish, where this description

*School.*—The schoolmaster's salary, paid wholly by the town, is 100 merks Scotch; the number of scholars is about 60; the fees for teaching to read English, 1 s. 6 d. a-quarter, reading and writing, 2 s., Latin, 2 s. 6 d., arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d. The schoolmaster has also an official house, with a small garden, provided for him by the town. And here, we cannot help observing with regret, that a body of men, so highly useful to the community as country schoolmasters, that a body of men, from whose successful labours Scotland has derived that reputation for literature which she so deservedly enjoys; and upon whose future labours, the preservation of this reputation, and the prosperity of her sons, in every quarter of the globe, must in a great measure depend, should be, in general, so poorly provided for by the country.—“Sic vos, non vobis.”

*Character of the People.*—The general character of a people commonly takes its complexion from their local situation, their engagements and their pursuits. The public ferry may justly be considered as having been hitherto the ruin of Kinghorn, both in respect of industry and morals. It opens, it is true, an easy road to an immediate subsistence, but it introduces, at the same time, all those vices and miseries to which people are exposed, whose time is not half occupied, whose thoughts are never turned

scription of innocent and useful people was once so numerous, there is only 1 farmer, who, patriarch-like, has continued this practice of employing and cherishing the cottager, in its full extent; and in this, he is now become the envy of all his neighbours around him; especially in bad harvests, such as we have lately had, when reapers could not be tempted to come from the towns even for high wages. There are other effects, which might likewise be stated, as arising from the substitution of hired servants in the place of Cottagers, viz. the diminution of the quantity, and consequently the rise of the price of several useful articles of life, such as butter, eggs, and poultry.

turned towards the aeququisition of capital, and whose Idom look beyond the present moment. Drunkenness, dissipation, and debauchery in youth, poverty and wretchednes in old age ; and, besides this, to say nothing of the tendency of burgh-politics, the scum of the creation continually floating here, cannot fail to taint whatever it touches. All the banditti and vagabonds of the country continually passing and repassing through this great thorough-fair, and occaisionally stopping, and lodging for days and weeks together, cannot fail to poison the principles, and to corrupt the morals of those with whom they mingle, and among whom they nestle. Not but that there are exceptions to be found, even among those that are the most exposed to these temptations. Not but that there are many here, as sober, as industrious, and as respectable in their several stations as in any other place. Even where the plague rages with the greatest virulence, there are always some that escape the fatal infection. And here we must do justice to a class of men, whom we have frequently had occasion to hear represented as drunken, rude, and insolent to a proverb ; we mean the boatmen. That some such there are, we readily admit ; but at the same time we will venture to affirm, that there is not in the island, nor perhaps in Europe, a public ferry, where the watermen are, in general, more active, more civil, and more obliging. If to the rough and insolent, they sometimes behave with rudeness, the fault, surely, is not entirely theirs. To their skill and activity, and even general sobriety, it may, in some measure, be attributed, that there is not an instance of so much as one of these boats having been lost, within the memory of man, or even upon record. With respect to the inhabitants of the country parish, who are mostly employed in the cultivation of land, we may observe, that they are, in general, a sober, industrious, and charitable peo-

ple, several of them intelligent and skilful in their profession, and that, amidst all the corruption of rotten and rotting burghs in the neighbourhood, they still retain much of that simplicity of life, and purity of manners, which renders pastoral description so pleasing to contemplate.

N U M.

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF CROMARTY.

(COUNTY OF CROMARTY, SYNOD OF ROSS, PRESBYTERY OF CHANONAY.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT SMITH.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE want of access to any particular record, makes it difficult to trace, with accuracy, the etymology of the name Cromarty : it is generally allowed to be Gaelic, denoting " crooked bay ;" and as this interpretation seems natural, it may be concluded a pretty just one. The Gaelic name of the place is *Crom Ba*, or " crooked bay ;" the description of the bay, on which the town is situated, having a noble winding curve, evidently favours this etymology of the name. The extent of this parish is from 7 to 8 miles in length, and from 1 to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in breadth. It is bounded by the bay of Cromarty on the N. ; by the Murray Frith, and the parish of Rossmarkie on the E. and S. The town of Cromarty is built on

on a neck or point of land, which stretches out on a level with the sea, there being a similar point on the opposite shore extending, in like manner, into the sea, as if to meet it. There are also two points of exactly the same description, a short way up the bay, which, together, occasion the curvature in the appearance of the bay mentioned above. Along the N. side of the parish, and immediately above the town, there is a beautiful verdant bank, extending from the eastern to the western extremity of the parish; the bulk of the arable land hangs over this bank, in a sloping manner, and presents one uninterrupted corn-field, without any eminence to intercept the view. To a traveller riding through the parish, by the public road to Inverness, the arable land lies concealed, and the appearance of the country is flat and moorish. The town of Cromarty was formerly a royal burgh, but was disfranchised by an act of the Privy Council of Scotland, in consequence of an application from Sir John Urquhart, proprietor of the estate of Cromarty, to that purpose. The soil about the town is fertile, of a deep black mould; it is, in general, however, remarkably wet, owing to a hard pan, or rocky substance in the bottom, which prevents the water from sinking beneath the surface. The soil in the country part of the parish is various; it is also, in general, wet, and the labour of the husbandman often much retarded, by consequence, in the spring season.

*Natural Curiosities.*—Of these, this parish is not very productive; it would, however, be a defect in this account, were no mention made of a large rock, considerable in height, which is termed “M'Farquhar's Bed.” What renders this rock remarkable, is the grandeur of an arch, which forms a natural bridge under the rock, admitting the waves of the sea to pass out and in with a tremendous appearance. A still more remarkable curiosity than the former, is a cove or cavern

vern, formed in a rock close by the sea, having an entrance sufficiently large to admit an ordinary sized man. From the roof and sides of this cavern, there is a continual dropping of water, some of which falls to the bottom of the cave, but by far the greater quantity is quickly petrified into a white hard substance, with which the roof and sides of the cavern are covered, and make a beautiful appearance. This cavern is quite accessible, and is truly a curious phenomenon.

*Climate, and Diseases.—*The climate is generally more mild in the town and its vicinity, than above the bank and in the country. Frost is frequently intense a mile or 2 from the town, when it is little felt immediately around it. The cold is most piercing in this place, when the wind blows from the E., which rushes in as if by a funnel. There are no diseases peculiarly prevalent among the inhabitants. The poorer class have been much distressed at all times for want of fuel, scarce having had access to any other, than the scanty supply furnished from the thinnings of the fir plantations in the neighbourhood of the town. It is to be hoped, that the tax on coals now to be taken off, will put that comfortable fuel more within the reach of all ranks; it is beyond a doubt, that many of the diseases incident to the lower ranks, were occasioned by the scarcity and high price of proper fuel. The inhabitants are, in general, healthy, and many instances of their living to the age of 80 years, or thereby, might be adduced; an instance or two there have been of the age of 90. The small-pox raged, in this place, to a great degree, during the first 3 months of 1792, and proved very mortal; when the infection was caught, in the natural way, upwards of 50 children, during the above period, fell a sacrifice to them. It is, with pleasure, however, to be observed, that the people were never more reconciled to the salutary mean of inoculation,

culation, than at the above period. Of those who took the disease by the latter, there were 2 only died, and these, by the physician's account, had other disorders which bore heavy upon them.

*Sea-Coast, &c.*—There is a considerable extent of sea-coast on the N. and S. E. sides of the parish, not far short of 9 miles; that on the N. is flat, and after passing the Sutor Bay about half a mile, there is scarce a rock to be met with on either side of the bay. The coast upon the S. and S. E. is high, being lined all along with a continued rock, elevated in some places, upwards of 250 feet above the level of the sea. There are several fish-boats belonging to the place; and though this be one of the noblest fishing stations, that can be, yet, of late years, from the small size of boats made use of, and the extreme timidity of the fishers, this useful article of life has been much less plentiful than was formerly known in this place. What seems to have introduced the use of such small boats was, that till within these last 16 or 20 years, fish was got in abundance within the bay, which is not now the case; they now begin to see the necessity of large boats, and by going out some considerable distance down the Murray Firth, fish are caught in greater abundance, such as cod, haddocks, whiting, flounders, skait, turbot very rarely, and sole; herrings have been caught in great abundance in the bay, but not for several years past. The price of fish has risen more, in proportion, than any other article of life, but still they are the cheapest provision which a family can use, notwithstanding that 1 d., about 12 or 16 years ago, would go further in the purchase of this commodity, than 1 s. now\*.

*Coast*

\* Haddocks are in season from the month of May to February; cod, from February to the month of June; flounders fall off in the harvest months; skait

and

*Course of the Tide, and Sea-Weed.*—There is a very strong tide flows in and out between the Sutors ; and it is remarkable, that the sea has made considerable encroachments on the E. end of the town, and falls in on the W. There is tradition among the inhabitants, that the ground on which the old town of Cromarty stood, being towards the E., is now wholly under water, and there are strong presumptions to favour the tradition in part. It is well known, that what was formerly called the western extremity of the town, is now the eastern ; neither are there any houses to the E. of the old cross of Cromarty, which is generally supposed to have been placed about the centre of the old town. But what tends to confirm this tradition most of all, is, that many of the inhabitants now living have seen several small tracts of garden ground, which are now either cut away, or covered by the sea. A storm from the E. covers the shore of this place with great quantities of sea-ware, which proves excellent manure of itself, and answers well as a mixture in the dunghil. The quantity of kelp made on the shore, does not exceed 10 tons annually.

*Sutors Bay and Harbour.*—The Sutors of Cromarty, so generally known, are two promontories jutting out into the

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and whiting are found good at all seasons. All the kinds of fish, except herrings, are generally taken by bait. Cromarty finds market for the greater proportion of fish caught by our fishers. It frequently happens that several of the boats go up to Dingwall, where the bay terminates, and there find a ready market for all their cargoes. It may not be improper to observe here, that this place labours under a great disadvantage, from the want of a weekly meat-market, which proves very inconvenient for small families. Beef is sold, when cheapest, at 2½d. the pound ; it advances in the spring season to 3½d. and 4d. Mutton much about the same price ; pork somewhat lower. A good fowl is never below 6d. Butcher meat of all kinds is generally very ill to be had during the spring season, and until the latter end of July.

sea, considerably elevated above its level; the one on the N. side of the entrance to the bay, and in the county of Ross, the other on the S. side in the county and parish of Cromarty. The body of water between the Sutors, is about a mile and a half in breadth, and forms the grand entrance to the bay of Cromarty\*. There is the finest anchorage ground that can be (after passing the Sutors) for several miles up the bay. There is a vast depth of water, on both sides, almost close to the shore; and such withal is the favourable and smooth state of the shore, on both sides, that were a vessel driven from her cables, and cast ashore, there would be little or no damage incurred; such instances seldom happen, and without any material injury to the vessel. Such is the vast extent of sea-room in this bay, and such the capacious description of its length, depth, and breadth, that almost the whole British Navy might, with the greatest safety, ride within the view of this place. Accordingly, it is remarkable, that in all violent easterly storms, when no vessel can venture to look into any port of the E. coast of Scotland from the Frith of Forth northwards, all vessels, thus situated, flock into this bay as a place of safety. Upwards of 30 vessels, at a time, have repeatedly been driven up here, and found shelter from the storm. There was a most commodious quay built here, in

the

\* The etymology of the name Sutor, is uncertain. In a curious, though whimsical production, written by Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, it is asserted, I know not upon what authority, that these promontories were named by the Greeks σύτοις, and that, from this they retain the name Sutors. Other derivations might be sought out, but so fanciful as scarce to merit notice, as indeed there is great scope for imagination on such subjects. Sir Thomas Urquhart's account of the matter, so far accords with the description of the bay of Cromarty, that when a vessel, of whatever size or burden, and in the most boisterous storm that blows, gets once fairly within the Sutors, there is no safer riding in the world. Other causes, however, conspire to entitle this bay to the name of *Portus Salutis*, as Buchanan terms it.

the year 1785, partly at the expense of Government, and partly that of Mr. George Ross late proprietor of the estate of Cromarty; it receives vessels of 350 tons burthen, and furnishes a smooth landing place for the ferry-boat, in the most boisterous weather. The present proprietor of the lands of Cromarty, in concurrence with the other trustees who are appointed, by act of parliament, to attend to the support of the quay, have it in contemplation, to build a pier upon the opposite shore, in order to procure a smooth landing to the ferry-boat upon the Ross-shire side. Such a scheme, when carried into execution, will be greatly in favour of this place, insomuch, that scarce any weather will prevent the course of the ferry-boat, between the two counties of Ross and Cromarty. The safety of this ferry may be judged of, when no accident has been known to have happened upon it in the memory of man.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755, was 2096. The present incumbent finished a survey of the population of the parish on the 1st day of April 1790, since which time no alteration as to number has taken place. The number of souls in the country part of the parish, amounts to 727, and in the town, to 1457, making in all 2184. There was a list of the inhabitants in the country, taken by the former incumbent in the year 1785, from which it appears, that there is a decrease of about 40 since that period; this, probably, has been occasioned by several small farms being joined into larger, though, upon the whole, no great change, of this nature, has taken place in this parish; another cause, is the emigration of labourers to the south country, some of whom do not again return. The inhabitants of the town have, without doubt, increased considerably within these last 18 years, which has been occasion-

ed by the extensive manufacture of hemp, erected here by the late Mr. George Ross. The number of males in the parish amounts to 1020, the number of females to 1164.

**ABSTRACT OF BAPTISMS, &c. for the last 8 years.**

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	56	9	29
1785	59	15	57
1786	61	10	30
1787	55	14	26
1788	59	12	32
1789	62	10	28
1790	47	12	27
1791	41	9	47
	—	—	—
	440	91	276
	—	—	—
Yearly average	55	11	34

Souls under 10 years,	488	From 50 to 70,	-	333
From 10 to 20, -	458	Above 70, and not exceeding 87,	-	47
From 20 to 50, -	868			

The above state of ages, though not perfectly exact, will be found not far from the truth. The number of farmers in the parish may amount to 50. There may be about 800 cattle which are, in general, of a superior kind: the number of horses may amount to 300, and of sheep to 600.

*Number of Acres, Improvements, &c.*—There was a survey of the estate of Cromarty taken by the late Mr. George Ross; as also, of the estate of Udal by Mr. Anderson the present

present proprietor, and accurate maps of both properties made out. From which it appears, that there are, in all, 6343 acres, 2 roods, 31 falls ; of which 1639 acres, 2 roods, 35 falls, are arable ; 1832 acres, 1 rood, 7 falls, in plantation ; 2871 acres, 2 roods, 29 falls, in pasture and moor. Here it will be proper to observe, that few parishes can boast of larger sums having been laid out in improvements of all kinds, than were applied, to this purpose, by the late proprietor of the estate of Cromarty, whose memory should ever be held in estimation, by the inhabitants of this place, for the many public spirited, as well as disinterested schemes he projected for promoting the welfare of the place, and rendering its many local advantages productive of the most extensive usefulness ; and, while he lived, no personal expense was thought too great by him, which might be subservient to carry such plans into execution. Upwards of 50,000 l. was laid out by him, in enclosures, the cultivation of a vast extent of moor ground, and other improvements ; good crops are now raised, where many of the inhabitants have seen nothing but bare moor. A considerable proportion of the above sum was applied towards beautifying, and enlarging the pleasure-grounds around the house and hill of Cromarty. The latter is covered with firs and forest trees of all kinds, and beautifully interspersed with delightful walks ; the grandeur of the prospect from many parts of this hill, or south Sutor, is beyond description, being enriched, on one side, with an extensive view of the Murray Frith, the whole coast, with which it is lined ; and, on the other, it takes in all the principal gentlemen's seats in the counties of Ross and Cromarty, including the bay, which completes the richness of the scene, and constitutes, upon the whole, the most beautiful variety of land and water that is to be met with in Britain. Travellers of the first rank and taste have traversed the hill, and spoke of its beauties, with admiration,

admiration, as exceeding any thing they had ever seen for grandeur and extent of prospect \*.

*Language, Manners, &c.—*The language of all born and bred in this parish, approaches to the broad Scotch, differing, however, from the dialects spoken in Aberdeen and Murray-shire ; this being one of the three parishes in the counties of Ross and Cromarty, in which, till of late years, the Gaelic language, which is the universal language in the adjacent parishes, was scarce ever spoken. There has been a considerable change, of late years, in this respect, among the inhabitants here ; the Gaelic having become rather more prevalent than usual †. There is a very genteel society, in this place, composed of several respectable and good families, remarkable for sobriety, for decency and propriety of conduct, in every respect. There are also in the country part of the parish, and among the farmers, several judicious heads of families

\* The crops raised in the parish, are, oats, barley, pease, very little wheat, potatoes. Oats are generally sown in the end of March and beginning of April; potatoes and pease in the month of April, and barley in the month of May. Barley harvest begins, in general, about the middle of August, other crops are reaped in September. The parish finds consumption for the greater part of the victual raised among us. Some indeed is exported to the neighbouring counties, but in no great quantities.

† This change has been partly occasioned by the great number of labourers from other quarters of the country, employed in carrying on Mr. Ross's improvements ; many of whom took up their residence in the place ; the number of such labourers may be judged of, from this circumstance, that in one year, there was known to be no less a sum than 1000l. distributed among them at 6d. a-day. What makes the Gaelic language now have any footing, is the establishment of the manufacture, which has collected many inhabitants to the place, who never knew any other than the Gaelic tongue. It is to be observed, in general, that the Gaelic is wholly confined to those who have settled here from the neighbouring parishes. It is worthy of notice, that there is a peculiar surname, Mustard, among the people here, not common elsewhere.

families who conduct themselves, through life, in an honest and industrious manner, and possess a degree of civility and discretion, not always to be met with among people of their station. A regard to religion, and the duties of public worship, form a leading part of the character of all ranks in this parish, and among many, the duties of morality are happily conjoined to give consistency and beauty to their religious profession \*.

*Rent, Proprietors, &c.—*The valued rent of the parish is 1579 l. 17 s. 2 d. Scots. The gross rent in virtual and money will be little short of 1600 l. It is here worthy of notice, that there has been no rise of rent, in this parish, except about the town, for a long course of years; and the tenants have an advantage, not now very general, by having a third part of their rent converted at 10 s. the boll; the consequence of which is, that those of them who are sober, keep decent families, and live comfortably. The lands about the town are let at 2 l. the acre, and are all enclosed. Scarcely any of the country farms are enclosed; they are let, at an average, from 12 s. to 15 s. the acre. In the year 1763, the property of

this

\* The principal exception to this latter observation, is a habit of drunkenness which has long been prevalent among the lower classes in this place. The late proprietor, saw the sad consequences, with which the intemperate use of spirituous liquors was daily attended in the above class of people, and to check the evil, as far as in him lay, did erect a very extensive brewery in the place, to furnish the inhabitants, at an easy rate, with a wholesome and less noxious liquor; but the cheapness of spirits has totally abolished the use of beer among the lower ranks; scarce a gallon of the latter is drunk among them in the week, while too many have run into the excessive and pernicious use of the former. It is to be hoped, however, that the late wise commutation, which transfers the tax from coals to spirituous liquors, will supersede the necessity in the people, of having recourse so much to what heated them internally, by affording them more easy access to comfortable heat of an external nature.

this parish was divided among 18 or 20 different proprietors. The principal heritor, at that time, was Captain John Urquhart, who was a branch of the old family of the Urquharts of Cromarty; a lineal descent of which, from Adam, has been whimsically attempted, by Sir Thomas Urquhart, who represented the family of Urquhart about the middle of the 17th century \*. There are now but 8 proprietors in the parish, except the Lairds of Cromarty and Udal, the property of all the rest put together is but trifling. The former, resides constantly in England, the latter, lives upon his property. It is worthy of remark, that the estate of Udal has been in possession of the same family for a period of 200 years. The present proprietor, Mr. Anderson, has planted a considerable extent of it with firs and forest trees, which come up very well.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, Poor.*—There are two clergymen in the parish; the parish minister, and the minister of the Gaelic Chapel. There was no Gaelic preached in this place, until the erection of the chapel; and the principal reason of introducing it was, for the accommodation of Mr. Ross's numerous labourers, and others who came from the neighbouring

\* The property of this family was once very extensive in the county of Cromarty, and comprehended much more than what is now called the estate of Cromarty. Sir John Urquhart, who died about the year 1659, left his affairs in great disorder, which obliged his son Jonathan to bring the estate to sale. The purchaser was George M'Kenzie, Viscount of Tarbat, afterward Earl of Cromarty, being the first who bore that title. The Earl of Cromarty gave the estate to his 2d son Sir Kenneth M'Kenzie. Sir Kenneth was succeeded by his son Sir George, and shortly before his death, the estate was brought to a judicial sale, and purchased by the above mentioned Captain Urquhart of Craigton. By him it was sold to Mr. William Pultney, who made sale of it to Mr. George Ross, the late proprietor, and whose nephew, Mr. Alexander Ross, is now proprietor of most of the lands in the parish.

neighbouring parishes to the manufacture of hemp. Accordingly, the place of worship was built solely at the expense of Mr. George Ross, in the year 1783; and he obtained a grant from the Exchequer of 50 l., paid annually from the bishop rents, as a living to the Gaelic minister. The manse underwent a partial repair; at the admission of the present incumbent, and is a good substantial house. The church was roofed anew, in the late incumbent's time; the old roof, at that time, taken off, was all of oak, said to have been cut down from the hill of Cromarty, upwards of 140 years before. The living was augmented by the Court of Teinds, during their last session, having got an increase of 281. 13s. 7d. Sterling. The state of the living now stands, as follows: 8 chalders of victual, and 381. 8s. Sterling of money. The glebe may be valued at 12l. a-year. The Crown is patron both of the parish church and the Gaelic.—The number of poor, upon the town's roll, amounts to 77; and upon the country's, to 33, making in all 110. The funds, for their relief, are as follow: In meal there are 9 bolls, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  pecks; payable from mortified lands left for the behoof of the poor 138 years ago, by one M'Culloch of Good-tree. Along with this, there is the annual interest of 120l. Sterling, of a fund; five guineas given annually, for a course of years back, by a Lady formerly connected with this place, and about 4l. Sterling annually, of seat rents. The weekly contributions, at both congregations, have considerably increased within the two last years, and may be estimated annually, between 30l. and 40l. Sterling; so that between meal and money, there will be a sum amounting to 60l. Sterling annually, for the above number of poor, which is distributed among them, in two parts, at those seasons of the year, when the necessaries of life are purchased at the easiest rate. It is worthy of remark, that in the year 1783, there was upwards of 30l. Sterling collected

lefted in one day's time, in this small place, for the relief of the destitute. Several of the tenants still speak of their feeling the hard effects of that and the preceding year.

*Manufacture.*—The Cromarty hempen cloth manufacture was erected in 1773 by the late proprietor, and several other country gentlemen, and is now carried on by a company of merchants in London. The fabricks, which are chiefly designed for cotton and coal bagging, are, in general, for exportation, and very little made use of in Scotland. The buildings for this business are large and extensive beyond any for the same purpose in Britain. Within the walls, there are about 200 people employed, men, women, and children; among whom there is a weekly circulation (exclusive of overseer's wages, and incidental expenses) of about 37 l. Sterling; to those who spin in their own houses in town and parish, there is a weekly circulation of 4 l. To those who spin in the adjacent parishes, there is a weekly circulation of 9 l. Sterling, making in all the sum of 50 l. Sterling, circulated weekly over the country from this manufacture, or 2600 l. Sterling annually.

*Antiquities.*—Among these is to be mentioned, the old castle of Cromarty, which stood hard by where the present house is built, but came nearer to the slope of the bank: it was pulled down by the late proprietor, in the year 1772; and several urns were dug out of the bank, immediately around the castle, composed of earthen ware; there were also several coffins of stone. The urns were placed in flags of stone, which formed a square around them, and a flag covered them; when the labourers touched these urns, they immediately mouldered away, nor was it possible to get up one of them entire: they contained the remains of dead bodies, which seemed

Seemed to have been burnt almost to ashes, before they were put into the urns; some small parts of the bones, which were not reduced to ashes, had the appearance of having been burnt, by which means they were preserved from mouldering. The coffins of stone contained skeletons, some of which wanted the head: Others having it, were of a very uncommon size, measuring 7 feet in length. On a bank, to the E. of Cromarty House, there stand the remains of a place of worship, called St. Regulus's Chapel, probably it was the family chapel of the Urquharts. From an ancient record, the subjoined account of St. Regulus is taken\*.

About 3 miles to the S. of this place, there is a very distinct appearance of a camp in the figure of an oblong square, supposed to have been a Danish camp. At one corner of it, there is the appearance of a number of graves, which makes it probable that many must have fallen in some attack upon it. It is generally conjectured that the Danes were wont to land at this place, and that the inhabitants of the country met them in a large moor, called Mullbuy, where they often fought, as graves are to be traced distinctly, for several miles,

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\* "It is reported, that one Regulus, a Grecian, having, in pursuance of orders given him in a vision, put out to sea in company with some of his colleagues, carrying the arm-bone, 3 fingers, and 3 toes of the Apostle St. Andrew in a little box; and after they had long suffered under horrid storms of ill-weather, being cast into that part of Fife, now called St. Andrew's, without any thing saved but the reliks, Hergustus, king of the Picts, entertained them nobly, and at their desire, erected a church, which, to this day, bears the name of St. Rule, from Regulus; upon whom that prince bestowed his own palace, with lands adjacent. This is said to have happened about the 7th century." Buchanan also speaks of the same St. Regulus, under the article *Fanum Reguli* of the Nomenclatura Latino Vernaculo. It is not improbable that some of his canons regular were placed in the chapel here, as they had been in the cathedral of St. Andrew's. There are the remains of another chapel in the country part of the parish.

in different parts of it. About a mile from the encampment, there is a very large collection of round stones, and hard by it a smaller one; some of the stones of a great size, which must have cost great labour in gathering it: It is beyond a doubt, that these stones were collected by the people, after battles fought in the moor, in order to cover the graves of their heroes and chief captains, and to stand as monuments upon the ground where they lay: what serves to confirm this account is, that stone-coffins have been found on the spot, containing the bones of such heroes \*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a considerable alteration in the dress of the people of late years. English cloths, and those of Scotch manufacture are now much worn by all ranks, and printed cottons have become a very general dress among house-maids and others, who were wont to be clothed with coarse woollen stuffs of home manufacture. The trade of this place has hitherto been but very insignificant, notwithstanding of its many and superior local advantages. All the vessels trading from London, Leith, and Aberdeen, to the northern counties, generally land at this place first, and take their departure from it to these different quarters. The quantity

\* Sir Thomas Urquhart's account of this matter is to the following purpose, leaving it to the reader to give it what credit he may think fit. Speaking in his genealogical table of Astioremone one of the forefathers of the Urquhart family, and whom he makes grandson of Alcibiades the Athenian; he goes on to observe, "That in the year before Christ 361, this Astioremone, by killing the ontlandish king Ethus, first king of the Picts, in a duel, before the face of both armies, gained the great battle of Farnua, fought within a mile of Cromarty: the relicks of that stranger king's trenches, head quarters and castration of his whole army being, to this day, conspicuous to all that pass by." Thus far Sir Thomas. Whatever be in this account, the farm town which, according to him, gave name to the battle, is still called Farnas, and is within a few gun-shots of where the encampment was.

ity of goods landed for this place, is proportionally small; but there is a great increase in the quantity sent to other quarters around, of late years. The London traders alone annually carry to the four northern counties, value to the amount of at least 100,000 l. Sterling \*.

## N U M.

\* There is a custom-house boat stationed here, having a master and six men under his command; from all I can learn, smuggling in these quarters is knocked in the head. It would be wrong to omit mentioning here, a grievance much and justly complained of; it is shortly this: That the officers of the customs here are instructed from the custom-house, to stop all boats freighted with victual, however small the quantity, unless a regular clearance or permit for such boat is sent for and obtained from the custom-house at Inverness. From this practice, any of the inhabitants of this country who may have occasion to send but 12 bushels of barley across the Frith, up to Inverness, or any of the neighbouring creeks, are under the unaccountable hardship of detaining their boat until the return of an express from Inverness, which lies 30 miles distance from many quarters of the country; and even from this place; the expense incurred by such a procedure, including the officer's fees, which amount to 11 s. or 12 s., and paying the express, will be nothing short of 16 s. or 18 s. This is mentioned, that the grievance, if not sanctioned by law, as is strongly suspected, may be checked, and a stop put to any longer continuance of it.

## NUMBER XXI.

**UNITED PARISHES OF KILMUIR WESTER  
AND SUDDY.**

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ROSS, PRESBYTERY OF CHANONRY.)

*By the Rev. Mr. Roderick McKenzie.*

*Name, Extent, Climate, Soil, &c.*

**K**ILMUIR is a Gaelic name, signifying "a church dedicated to Mary;" it has Wester affixed to it, to distinguish it from a parish of the name of Kilmuir, situated in Easter Ross, within 6 miles of Tain, which is near the extremity of this county. Suddy is a Gaelic name also, that signifies "a good place to settle in," both from its fertility and local situation. The kirk and manse of Kilmuir were built on the S. side of this parish, close by that branch of the Murray Frith, leading towards Beauly, commanding a view of the town of Inverness, the place of Culloden, Fort-George, and all the way along that coast to the town of Forres; and for a beautiful situa-

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tion was inferior to no place in this country. The kirk and manse of Suddy were built to the N. side of the parish, in the heart of a rich and fertile country\*. This parish, which now goes commonly by the name of Knockbain, (from the kirk and manse being built on a spot of ground of that name), is rather irregular in its form, being divided by a branch of the Murray Frith that goes toward Beauly, called the Bay of Munlochy. It is also covered on the N. and N. W. by a part of the parish of Killearnan, for at least 2 English miles. Its length from E. to W. is supposed to be from 5 to 6 miles, and from S. to N. from 6 to 7. The air is clear and salubrious, which is in a great measure owing to the immense quantity of open country and moors, which still lie uncultivated in

\* These two parishes, together with the parish of Killearnan, were united in the year 1756, at the joint request and application of all the heritors, (except Mr. M'Kenzie of Suddy), and of the 3 incumbents, viz. Mr. Donald Fraser of Killearnan, Mr. Munro of Suddy, and Mr. Robert Munro of Kilmuir, to the Lords of Council and Session, as commissioners for the plantation of kirks and valuation of teneants: and upon the death of the minister of Suddy, which happened in 1762, the kirk and manse of the united parishes of Kilmuir and Suddy were built upon a bleak and barren moor, to the S. side of Munlochy, called, by way of burlesque, Knockbain, where it had a glebe affixed to it of considerable extent, but of little value. This place, no doubt, was chosen for the accommodation of the parishioners being central; but with little regard to the minister's comfort or advantage. The stipend of the three parishes was equally divided to the death of Mr. Munro of Suddy, which happened May 1762, between the minister of Killearnan, and the minister of the united parishes, and a considerable part of the parish of Kilmuir, and a small part of the parish of Suddy, were annexed to the parish of Killearnan, and a part of the parish of Killearnan was disjoined from it, and annexed to the united parish of Kilmuir and Suddy. One thing worthy of remark in this division of the parishes, is, that in order to make the stipends equal, there is from one town, Wester-Kessock, 8 bolls of stipend payable to the minister of Killearnan, although the minister of the united parish is obliged to perform every part of the pastoral office *quoad sacra*, and the inhabitants of the town accommodated with room in the church of the united parish.

in this parish, and to there being no high mountains, nor any large tracks of wood to prevent the free circulation of the air. The inhabitants are healthy, and subject to no diseases but such as are peculiar to their neighbours\*. The nature of the cultivated soil is various; that along the sea coast is thin and stony, but, when properly cultivated, yields good crops of grass and corn, especially if the summer months be moist and rainy; that in the middle of the parish is deep, rich, and having a clay bottom, produces luxuriant crops on such farms as are kept in a good state of culture: as it extends toward the Mullbuy, (a long track of common, extending from Cromarty to the public road leading from Beauly to Dingwall, and covering a considerable part of this parish to the N.) the soil, though good, from its high situation, is cold; and though it yields tolerable crops of oats and pease, the barley crops are generally poor, owing, in a great measure, to the wetness of the ground, and no drains nor fences being made to carry off the hill-waters, or shelter the fields, excepting on the heritor's mains, as also from the people's not giving it a sufficient quantity of good and rich manure. This parish, notwithstanding, yields a much greater quantity of grain than is sufficient to support the inhabitants; and from the grain's being always early sown, and as early gathered in at harvest, it is found to be of a superior quality for the brewer, the distiller, and mealmonger, and being in the close neighbourhood

of

\* The small-pox generally makes dreadful havoc among the children; and this is in a great measure owing to the aversion the common people have at inoculation, which, I am told, has never been practised here, but by the gentlemen, and such of their dependents as have been prevailed upon, by earnest persuasion and entreaty, to permit their children to be inoculated; however, it is to be expected, that as the people become a little more acquainted with this happy mean, which has already saved the lives of thousands, and see its salutary effects, that they may be brought to yield to the practice of it, and so save the lives of their own young ones.

of the town of Inverness, it is always sure of a ready market; the whole of the harvest last year, though late all over England and Scotland, was safely ingathered in this parish before the 1st of October, although exposed in some of the neighbouring parishes till the middle of November.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 668. The number of souls at present in this parish is 1805: of these there are above the age of 10 years 1355, and below 10 years 450; of which there are males 704, females 1101: of the above 704, there are 341 above the age of 15. Number of marriages in 1791,—17; in 1792,—20. Births in 1791,—41; in 1792,—45†. The number of tenants is 106, cottagers and mealers 404; of these there is 1 merchant, 62 widows, 13 widowers, 49 shoe and brog-makers, 5 smiths, 17 square and cart-wrights and millers, 11 maiden lasses keeping house, 3 bachelors keeping house, 48 weavers, 18 tailors, 1 fiddler, 4 pipers, 3 gardeners, 1 exciseman, 9 whisky sellers, 1 regular inn at Kessockferry, 6 distillers of whisky, 1 ferry, with a sufficient number of boatmen.

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† There are many more children born in this parish than the number contained in this report, such as are baptized by the Episcopal clergymen, and the names of those children are not engrossed in the parish register; and, I suppose, they keep no register of their own, so that the number cannot be ascertained with any degree of exactness, but may be supposed at 10. No account at all can be given of the number of deaths in this parish, as there is no register of burials kept, besides, that most of the inhabitants bury in the neighbouring church-yards, although there be two burial places in this same parish, one at Suddy, and one at Kilmuir. The people of this parish, in general, are healthy, though not long lived. There are few instances of men's arriving at the age of 80 years; and this may be owing to their being intire to hard labour from their youth, from their eating little or none of butcher meat, and but very little milk; the principal food of the common people being oatmeal and potatoes, with a little fish in the fishing season. There are a few women now living in this parish, who have attained to the age of 90 years.

This ferry is the property of Mr. Grant of Redcastle, who is to build a pier and an inn, and stables at the ferry, for the accommodation of the public, which, with proper boats, will cost between 700 l. and 800 l. Sterling.

The population of this parish has, of late years, considerably increased; and this is to be chiefly attributed to the encouragement given by the family of Kilcoy to mealers and cottagers on that estate. This plan was originally adopted by Mrs. M'Kenzie Dowager of Kilcoy, during the minority of her son, and carried on with spirit and success; and as there is still a considerable quantity of waste land in his property, that is fit for culture, he continues to encourage these new settlers upon liberal and advantageous terms both to himself and them \*.

*Rent, Heritors, &c.*—The valued rent is 3145 l. 11 s. 2 d. Scots, and the real rent, including the heritor's mains, may be estimated at 2600 l. Sterling, some of which is paid in kind, such as barley and oat-meal, the rest in money. Indeed, the gentlemen are converting all their rents into money, all the customs, carriages, and services being converted some time ago, I think, at the rate of 1 l. Sterling for every boll of old rent, and now only assess the tenants with as much virtual as pays the clergyman's stipend. There are 8 heritors in this parish, 5 of whom have their mansion-houses in it, and reside in them, except Colonel Graham of Dryney, who is with his regiment in America, and Mrs. M'Kenzie of Suddy at Chatham.

\* There are no Papists, Seceders, Methodists, nor any other religious sect from the Established Church in this parish, except about 200 Episcopalians, who have a chapel of their own, and a clergyman to preach to them once in 20 days. This clergyman regularly administers the sacraments, and marries his own hearers, but never without a line from the session-clerk of this parish, certifying the parties having been proclaimed, and the dues paid.

Chatham. Two have their family seats in the parish of Killearnan, where their property is considerable ; and one, Mr. M'Kenzie of Pitlundy, one of the sheriff-substitutes of Ross, lives on a farm belonging to Mr. Davidson of Tulloch, close by the town of Dingwall. Property has been, for several years back, rather changeable ; but no proprietor has been introduced into the parish for upwards of 50 years, except Mr. Grant of Redcastle, and Sir Roderick M'Kenzie of Scatwell, who sold his property in this parish to the Kilcoy family ; the rest of the property, to a considerable quantity of land, that was sold, being bought up by the family of Kilcoy, who is the largest proprietor, and principal heritor in this parish, except a small property purchased of late by Colonel Graham of Dryney.

*Language.*—The Gaelic is the language commonly spoken here ; and though there are a few who have no Gaelic, yet most of the inhabitants speak and understand both languages. All the names of the heritors places of residence in this parish, are derived from the Gaelic : Thus, Allangrange, or, *Allan-Cbrain*, “ a fertile field of corn ;” Suddy, or *Sui-us-sbin*, “ a good place to settle in ;” Belmaduthy, or *Ball-ma-duich*, “ a good country town,” or *Ball-ma-dutb*, “ a good black town,” from its being situated hard by a black moor.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Agriculture is, as yet, in this parish, though a corn country, in a state of infancy ; excepting on the proprietor's mains, and 1 farm, the rest all adhere to the old mode of culture. The heritors, who have all extensive mains, are improving them with great judgment and spirit ; but, being all young men, few or none of them have had sufficient time to complete their pleasure ground, or bring their mains to a proper state of cultivation, although they are making

fast progres toward it. From this I must except Mr. MacKenzie of Allangrange, who has brought his mains and the pleasure-ground of his place, to as high, if not higher perfection than any man I know in this or the neighbouring counties; he has, for several years back, paid the closest attention to the improvement of his place; and now, while the traveller is delighted at seeing those improvements, he himself tastes the profits, and enjoys the comforts of them. This gentleman has, within my knowledge, recovered from 70 to 80 acres from a perfect morass, which is now completely drained, fenced, and yielding strong crops of hay and corn, and has thereby not only beautified his place, but considerably added to his rent-roll: for these lands, which only paid his father 3l. 6s. 8d. he could now set at from 15 to 20 shillings the acre; and he still continues to go on improving other parts of his estate with great assiduity and attention in the farming, shepherd, and planting way. At the place of Allangrange are to be seen several beech trees and poplars of a very large size, as also yew trees of an uncommon magnitude, and two silver firs that greatly surpass in height and circumference any of the same kind in this country. The mode of farming is various, according as the tenants choose; only those upon the estate of Allangrange are restricted, I am told, to a certain rotation; but I do not see that they hold by it, or if they do, I do not find that their circumstances are bettered by it. There are 18 ploughs in this parish, some of oxen, some of horses, and some a mixture of both; none but the gentlemen use a horse-ploughs. There is not a farmer in this parish, independent of heritors, who rents 70 acres, except Mr. Munro, factor to Kilcoy; he is the only one who has adopted the new mode and plan of farming, and manages his farm to great advantage. Lands in general let at from 12 s. 6 d. to 20 s. the acre; and on one estate, I am told, they let higher. The causes

causes that generally obstruct the improvement of agriculture here, in my opinion, are the poverty of the people, the smallness of the farms, the prejudices of the farmers in behalf of old established practices, and the short leases granted by heritors ; all these co-operate to strengthen each other : And although the heritors improve their own mains with spirit, and are well inclined to give long leases, yet not one among the whole set of tenantry has followed their example, but Mr. Munro, whom I have already mentioned, and has his farm managed with great regularity and judgment.

The stock of this parish consists of black cattle, horses, a few sheep and hogs, and, after supplying the parish with grain, there are large quantities of meal and barley sold to such as are inclined to purchase. It is impossible to ascertain the number of acres under crop, as the estates of the several heritors have not been regularly surveyed ; and, I am sorry to say, that it is my opinion there are still in this parish two uncultivated acres for every one that is in culture. But in this calculation I include the planted grounds.

The people follow, in general, the occupation of husbandry. Although there is a sufficient number of tradesmen of various kinds, yet they hold some little ground, which they cultivate. The people, in general, are sober and industrious ; they confine their whole attention to the working of their lands and their small crofts, and as there is no manufacture of any kind established in this parish, both men and women are equally dextrous at handling the spade, the muck-fork and shovel. The chief crops are oats, barley, pease, potatoes, a little wheat, and some rye ; there is also a considerable quantity of clover and rye grass sown every year on the heritor's mains, and answers extremely well ; and a few of the tenants sow small spots of ground with the same. Potatoes are a great crop, as they make the principal food of the common

farmers

farmers and the poor people, which, with the herring that frequent this coast almost every autumn, and continue till the spring, make a good and wholesome diet. The herrings are the only fish caught in this coast, except a few salmon caught at Stale fishing, and some cuddies, of a very small size, in the summer months. These were so numerous this season, as to be taken with nets, although the common way of fishing them is with a hook and bait. I cannot here omit mentioning an uncommon kind of fish called gobichs, that made its appearance on this coast about 3 years ago; they darted to the shore with the greatest violence, so that the people took them alive in large quantities. The body of this fish was long, and its head resembled that of a serpent's: its weight never exceeded 3 or 4 ounces: many of them were found dead on the shore. The sowing of oats and pease commences here at February, barley and potatoes in April; so that the whole crop is sown on or before 12th of May. Harvest generally begins along the coast about 12th of August, and is general by the 12th of September.

*Stipend, Poor.*—The kirk was built in 1764, and the manse in 1766; the latter was repaired in 1791; and both are now in a tolerable state of repair. The church holds, for ordinary, from 600 to 700 people. Captain M'Kenzie of Cromarty is patron. The stipend is 9 chalders and 1 boll of barley, 3 chalders and 3 bolls oat-meal, and 98 l. 9 s. 8 d. Scotch of money, of which there are 60 l. for communion elements. There is, besides, half the glebe of Kilmuir, and a glebe about the manse, of between 30 and 40 acres, which rented at the time of the annexation 7½ bolls, but by its being totally neglected since that time, was of little or no value at the accession of the present incumbent to the living, being mostly all covered over with heath.—The number of poor on the roll of the

parish

parish is 35, too many for all the funds : however, there was triple this number, until the heritors and session, in July 1792, saw the necessity of striking off a great many, or rather they struck off themselves, as the heritors and session would admit none, but such as would sign a bond (under certain limitations), to leave all they were possessed of at their death, as a fund for the poor of the parish ; the session obliging themselves to see such as signed this bond regularly supplied, as far as the funds would allow, and, in the end, have them decently buried. The Sunday collections amount to 6l. or 7l. ; a mortcloth, brings in about 30s. ; a small mortification of 16s. 8d. from the lands of Bellmaduthy,—is all the poor have to depend upon : There is also a bond of 115l. due to the poor, but which, from some untoward circumstances, yielded no relief to them for several years back : however, there is still reason to hope, that the principal sum may be recovered. Many of the poor beg from house to house ; and it would be deemed impious to refuse alms, or a night's quarters to any. A great many beggars swarm to this parish from other places, particularly from the Highlands, in the months of June, July and August.

*Roads, Bridges, Plantations.*—The roads of this parish are kept in excellent repair, as are also the bridges : these have been hitherto done by statute-labour ; the people have now an option of commuting it at 2s. the plough, or 18d. the man, or else to work at the roads for 6 days. There are 4 great roads passing through this parish, one from Kefflock to Fortrose, Cromarty, Invergordon, Alnes and Fowles, for the space of 6 miles in each direction, and the road from Inverness to Dingwall, at the extremity of Allangrange's property, close to Park-town of Redcastle. There is also a road from Kefflock, leading along the shore from Redcastle, and the West Highlands.

lands. There is no great deal of natural wood in this parish; that of any extent is upon the estate of Kilcoy, consisting of alder, and is kept with great care and attention. There are very large plantations of firs of various kinds, ash, beech, oak &c., on the estates of several of the heritors; but the most extensive, is that on the estate of Bellmaduthy, being above 500 acres, all in a thriving condition, and many of them fit for market. By the time all these plantations come to perfection, or are fit for sale, there will be great abundance of wood for supplying the parishioners with timber and fuel, an article much wanted here, as the mosses in the parish are quite exhausted, and the inhabitants will be necessitated to purchase coals, which, with the high duty, is far beyond the reach of the poorer, and middle class of people, and which, if not speedily withdrawn, will oblige the inhabitants to emigrate to other countries, where fire is to be had in greater abundance. Every poor man's countenance here sparkled with joy, at being told of Mr. Secretary Dundas's intention of bringing a bill this session into Parliament, to take the duty off coals coming to this country.

*Antiquities.*—There are evident marks of a battle's being fought in this parish. It is said to have been between the people of Inverness and the M'Donalds, and to have happened in the 13th or 14th century. The plain on which this battle was fought, is to this day called *Blair-na-coi*; a name given it from this particular circumstance, that as one of the contending parties was giving way and flying, a tenant and his son who were ploughing on that field, had taken off the yokes with which the oxen were fastened together, rallied the routed troops, and with them recommenced the action and carried the day\*.

*Schools.*

\* It would appear the battle was bloody, and desperately fought, from the val-

*Schools.*—There are no less than 3 schools in this parish: a parochial school with a salary of 200 merks, a flated school and dwelling-house, and a kail-yard, attended by 50 or 60 children; a society school with a salary of 161., attended by from 35 to 45 children; and a Sunday-school established here, by Charles Grant, Esq. where 100 or more poor people are taught to read Gaelic and English, and instructed in the principles of the Christian religion; and all who attend this school are not only taught, but supplied with books at Mr. Grant's sole expense. It is proposed this season, to cause the teacher of the Sunday-school open a weekly school in a remote but populous corner of the parish, so as to render this institution more beneficial to the parishioners.

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*Birds.*—

vast number of cairns of stones that are still to be seen there, covering the dead. These the people still hold so sacred, that though the place was in tillage when the battle was fought, the marks of the ridges being still visible there, and though a great deal of the adjoining moor is now cultivated, not one of these cairns has been ever touched. Another circumstance that strengthens this opinion is, that the heights and adjacent places go by the name of *Druim-na-deor*, “the height or the Hill of Tears.” To the E. of where the battle was fought, are to be seen the remains of a Druidical temple, called James’s Temple; and to the W. of the field of battle, are to be seen the traces of a camp, and a similar one to it to the S. on the hill of Kessock, the highest hill in this parish, where there is also a pretty large cairn of stones, called Cairn-glas. This hill, which goes by the name of Ord-hill, belongs to Mr. Grant of Redcastle, who has already begun to plant it with firs and other forest trees, and which, when finished, will be an ornament to this and the neighbouring counties, as it lies on the coast opposite to Inverness, and is to be seen as far down as from the town of Elgin. I could get no such traditional account of this battle, as could induce me to commit any thing more about it to paper. One circumstance worthy of remark is, that a very honest and respectable family of farmers, date their introduction to this parish from that period; and what is still more extraordinary, amidst the various changes and revolutions of time and proprietors, they have continued in the same possession, and on the self-same Larach; and their antiquity is such as to become a proverb, so that when people speak of a very remote circumstance, it is a common saying among them, It is as old as the Lobans of Drumderfit.

Hens at 6 d. There is little butter and cheese sold here. These articles are bought at the neighbouring markets at 10 s. 6d. the stone of butter, and from 4 s. to 5 s. the stone of cheese\*.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—One great advantage which this parish enjoys, arises from its being in the near neighbourhood of Inverness, from which it is only divided by a narrow kyle of the sea, over which there is a regular ferry-boat renting 128 l. Sterling. There the inhabitants get a ready-money market for any commodity they have to offer for sale, and get to purchase, any article they wish for, with little trouble, and as little loss of time. Another, arises from the close neighbourhood of Fairntosh, from whence there is a constant demand for their barley for making whisky. Another advantage is, that there is great plenty of freestone quarries in the parish, and great abundance of clay for building comfortable houses and fencing their fields. Mr. McKenzie of Kilcoy has been making brick of some of this clay for 2 years past for his own use. They have answered exceedingly well; and a manufacture of this kind could be established to a large extent on his estate, within a quarter of a mile of the sea. Another is, that the inhabitants have water-carriage for any heavy articles they may need, either by Kessock or Munlochy bay. And the last I shall mention is, that the parish every where abounds with great plenty of fresh water, sufficient not only for the use of the inhabitants, but for carrying on any manufacture that might be established among them, that required such an aid.

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\* Day-labourers get 8d. in summer and harvest, and 7d. in winter, a-day; an out-servant gets 6 bolls of meal of 9 stones to the boll, and from 4l. to 5l. wages, with some potatoe ground, a house and some fuel. House servants get from 4l. to 4l. 10s., and the common servants who work at the farm get from 20s. to 30s. in the year.

The disadvantages, on the other hand, are many. The greatest, and that which is most sensibly felt by the inhabitants, arises from the want of fuel; the whole mooses in the parish being quite exhausted, and the people's having recourse to nothing else to make up this want, but the purchasing of a few young planted firs which have little last, and as little warmth or heat in them. The 2d, arises from the want of limestone to help to manure the lands, or any marl, except on the estates of Kilcey and Bellmaduthy, which, from its scarcity, has been wholly confined to their own mains, and when and where applied, has been found to answer well. A 3d disadvantage arises from the want of manufactures. There are several eligible stations for establishing manufactures in this parish, especially an woollen or linen manufacture which might be carried on here to any extent. Indeed there are 2 stations in this parish so naturally calculated for such a business, that it is rather surprising that they should, till now, be quite neglected; the one of these is at the village of Munlochy, where there is plenty of fresh water to work any machinery, a plain of a considerable extent, at least 100 acres, through every part of which water may be carried with the greatest ease, and it is surrounded with a fine green bank facing the S. for drying clothes, within less than a quarter of a mile of the sea, and in the midst of a populous country where the inhabitants are desirous of employment; and Mr. M'Kenzie of Kilcey, the proprietor, I am well persuaded, would encourage a company on liberal terms to set up a manufacture there. The other station is on the shore of Kessock, opposite to the town of Inverness, the property of M<sup>r</sup>. Grant of Redcastle. Ships of any burden can come quite close to that shore; and Mr. Grant has told me, that he would feu out the ground on his property along the shore, on easy terms, to such tradesmen as would wish to settle there, and give a manufacturer

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all due encouragement. This place is also surrounded by a vast number of people. The last disadvantage I shall condescend upon, arises from the smallness of the farms and shortness of the leases; but this I well know is owing to the poverty and indolence of the present inhabitants, and I am well convinced if gentlemen farmers, possessed of capitals, came to settle this place, they would meet with all due encouragement, both as to leases and melioration, from the proprietors, who all wish to encourage agriculture; and I am persuaded, that such adventurers would find, upon trial, that it would turn out to their own private advantage.

N U M

## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF FORGUE.

COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF TURREFF.)

*By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM DINGWALL.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

THE ancient name of this parish is Forig, as appears from an inscription on the communion cups. The modern name Forgue. This name is said to be of Gaelic original, as are also many names in this parish and country. The length of the parish from N. to S. may be about 9 English miles; its breadth from W. to E. variable, but the greatest between 4 or 6 miles. From springs in the hills, descend through the fields various rivulets, which empty themselves into 2 burns, namely, the burns of Frendraught and Forgue, the latter of which is beautifully edged with natural wood.

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil along the lower parts of the parish, is generally a deep loam, with a bottom of strong stiff clay,

elay, and produces barley, oats, pease, turnip, and good crops of hay. Little wheat is sown in the parish, not so much : there was about 12 years ago, owing to the backward late rainy seasons. The southern parts of the parish, which are called Foudland, are mostly in a state of nature, and covered with heath. There are a few farms on the extremities of it, of a light black soil. In several parts of the parish, hedges have been planted with success. When they receive proper care and attention, they thrive amazingly. There is a quarry of limestone at Pitfanoy, which affords a considerable, though not a sufficient quantity for the parishioners and this neighbourhood. The surplus grain of this parish, which is very considerable, is sold to merchants in Portsoy and Banff, who export the barley, oats, and meal, annually by sea, to the other parts of the island \*.

*Hills.*—The most remarkable hill is called Foremont †, a part of which is in the parish ; it affords an extensive, beautiful prospect to those who visit the top of it. Along the S.E. exposure of this hill, stands the house of Cobairdy, the property of Sir Ernest Gordon of Park, Bart. surrounded with

a variety

\* I mentioned above, two streams or rivulets, the one called the Burn of Frendraught, near which is situated, the seat of Alexander Morison, Esq. Bognie, beautiful by nature, but no less so by the elegant and judicious taste of the intelligent proprietor. The other, the Burn of Forgue, resembling strath, nearly 2 miles in length, beautifully covered with alder, ash, birch, and various kinds of trees. These rivulets meet a little below where the church stands, running on near by the house of Haddo in this parish. After a variety of beautiful windings delighting the eye, the compound stream discharges itself into the Dovern near the church of Inverkeithing. To the traveller and man of taste, these rivulets, both before and after they meet, afford many beautiful and picturesque scenes.

† Its Gaelic name is For-mon, and its perpendicular height from the Dovern 1000 feet.

a variety of fields in the highest state of cultivation, enclosed and subdivided; an extensive plantation of all kinds of hard wood, which promises an additional source of riches to the industrious proprietor, and accommodation to the country. On the N. E. side, part of which is the property of Major Duff of Mayen, improvements and plantations are going on with great rapidity.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—* The church which is in tolerable good repair, as is also the manse and office-houses, are situated on the N. side of the burn of Forgue. From the manse, which is about 200 yards N. of the church, there is a beautiful variegated view of hills and dales, of groves and plantations of various kinds. Mr. Morison of Bognie, is patron of the church, and proprietor of more than one half of the parish. The oldest date about the church, is 1638\*. The glebe is above the legal standard. The present stipend is 500 merks Scots money, with 44 bolls of meal, at 8 stone the boll, and 20 bolls of bear, with 50 merks Scots for communion elements.—The schoolmaster's salary is 111. 2s. 2*dr*.<sup>8</sup> Sterling, with 2l. 4s. 5d. Sterling, for session-clerk fee. School-fees for Latin and arithmetic, 2s. 6d. a-quarter; and 2s. for English.—The number of poor on the roll, is 24. The collections made annually for their support, amount to upwards of 40l. Sterling, including 5l. 4s. Sterling of interest; 4l. of seat-money, and other incidents.

*Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the popu-*  
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\* Several inscriptions on the seats in it are supposed to refer to those dreadful feuds, which in those days subsisted between the family of Huntly and the family of Frendraught in this parish, such as, God send grace without fear.—Patientia overcummis tiranny.—O paxi graviora dabit Deus, his quoque finem. Deus nobiscum, quis contra.—Cum omnibus pacem, adversus vitia bellum.

lation in 1755, was 1802. The parish contains in all, at present, 1778 souls. Of these, 220 Episcopalians, a few Separatists, a few Roman Catholics, and all the rest of the Established Church. Our marriages annually, at an average, amount to 15; baptisms to 36; and burials to 25; excluding those that are buried at other parishes; but, notwithstanding that the number of deaths comes greatly short of the births; yet, on account of the farms becoming larger, the lands being thrown into pasture, laid down with grass-seeds, the great advancement on servants wages, and the increase of manufactures in towns, the inhabitants of the parish are gradually decreasing.

*State of Farming, &c.*—Improvements in farming are making great progress. The horse-hoeing husbandry has been introduced with success. Cabbages, in the field, have scarcely been raised any where in the parish except by the minister; they are of the Scotch grey sort, and grow to a great size. They are chiefly applied for feeding the cows, and are all horse-hoed \*. Turnip crops have been cultivated for many years in the broad cast, and now a great part of the crop in the drill. The following year, these fields so cultivated are laid down with grass-seeds. The cattle are of the Scotch breed; but are, of late, much improved in size by the culture of green crops. These are consumed in rearing cattle, which is found more profitable to the farmer, than in fattening

\* About 20 years ago, cabbages were raised in the open fields of Cobainy by Sir Ernest Gordon, the outer blades of which exceeded 4 feet, and sometimes 4½ feet diameter; these cabbages, after being stripped of their stem and outer blades, generally weighed from 38 lib. to 48 lib. Dutch weight. Also, in the same fields, turnip had been often raised from 16 lib. to 22 lib. Dutch weight, including the top, or blades that grow above ground. What a pity is it that the cultivation of these cabbages is now so much neglected.

ing those that are grown. There are about 1000 sheep, most of them in the southern part of the parish, of the small kind, owing to the peculiar nature of the pasture. Some of the English breed, and of a cross breed from them, have been introduced, and are pastured upon sown grass. The farmers are uncommonly attentive to the breed of horses. They sell at 20l. 25l., and even some of them bring, in the market, 30l. and upwards. Cows bred here, have been sold from 8l. to 10l.; oxen at 16l.: but the common prices are greatly below these sums. Small sized cows sell from 4l. to 5l.; and oxen from 6l. to 10l. The farms are of various sizes, from 200 acres downwards; and some of these are almost wholly enclosed, either with stone fences or hedges; and subdivided with hedges. The rent varies, according to circumstances, from 1l. 10s. to 2s. 6d. the acre. Many of our farm-houses are neat, commodious, and of the modern cast, and covered with slate. The highest rent in the parish is 110l. Sterling. The valued rent of the parish is 3936l. 6s. 8d. Scots. The real rent may amount to about 250l. Sterling. There are 14 proprietors or heritors belonging to the parish; 4 of them reside in it, and one of them occasionally. Most of them have given evident marks of their taste for plantations and improvements. The face of the country here, is variegated and beautiful. The proprietors and their tenants, in general, extremely active in improving their lands, in planting their waste grounds, and in covering the rugged appearance of the barren soil, with various kinds of wood.

On the property of Mr. Morison of Bognie, there are many thriving plantations of trees and natural wood. Upon hills and waste ground, there are 10 different enclosures, containing about 300 acres, covered with various kinds of fir, and hard wood interspersed, where the soil admits. Near to Frendraught house, and upon an out-farm, occupied by the

same proprietor, there are about 12 different divisions or patches of better ground, containing about 50 acres enclosed, and beautifully covered with larch, hard wood, and other varieties of trees. Upon the same property, along the water fides, called the Burns of Forgue and Frendraught, there is also a large quantity of natural growing alders, perhaps to the extent of 25 acres. From these woods, the people in the parish, and others at a distance, have been supplied with timber annually. And the thriving appearance of these plantations, promises a long continuance of that useful article in this corner.

There are several spirited, industrious, judicious, and thriving farmers in the parish. They have brought their fields into high culture, many of them well fenced; being encouraged, in various respects, by their different proprietors. The leases are of a peculiar nature, and highly advantageous both for the proprietor and tenant; particularly those of Mr. Morrison, who has encouraged the tenants on his estate, to plant trees in waste ground, convenient places in meadows, corners of fields, or in hedge rows \*. When we consider the utility

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\* Upon the following conditions, viz. If the field or spot to be planted contain 4 acres, the proprietor is at one half of the expense of enclosing, and pays the other half to the tenant at the issue of the lease, if the fence be in repair. When the trees grow up, the farmer is at liberty to weed or cut timber for any purpose about, or necessary for the farm, still leaving an equal cover on the ground. But he is prohibited from selling or disposing of any trees, until the issue of the lease, when the proprietor of the land has an option to take the whole growing timber on the farm, and to pay the value thereof to the tenant, as it shall be appreciated by 2 men mutually chosen for that purpose, or allow the tenant a full year to cut down, sell, and dispose of the whole wood on the farm, so agreed upon. These are the general terms of encouragement for planting; but where the fields or corners to be planted contain more or less than 4 acres; the conditions vary according to that and other circumstances. The proprietor has also hitherto given a supply of young trees, *gratis*, to the planter, from his own nursery.

of plantations of trees in Scotland, not only for supplying the farmers, mechanicks, and others, with materials in their respective callings ; but for warming and improving the climate, we must allow great merit to Mr. Morison for his own exertions, but still more on account of encouragement given, and example shown to his tenants. For, I apprehend, he stands among the foremost country gentlemen of the N., who have either given such generous terms, or have been at so much pains to induce the tenantry to employ a little spare ground and time to purposes so patriotic, as well as ultimately beneficial to themselves and families. An Earl of Moray may plant his 3000 acres, and other patriotic noblemen and gentlemen may each exert themselves on their own farms, or particular corners of their estates ; but what are these points to the *whole* of the country ? A *province*, a *country*, a *district*, cannot be properly wooded without the assistance of the farmer. In that case, there would be a continuation of wood to break the N. E. and other blighting winds which are the bane of this country. When I reflect upon this, I think it a pity, that Mr. Morison has not connected all his different plantations into one continued extent, which would nearly reach from one extremity of the parish to the other, forming an irresistible barrier against those points of the compass that bring us the worst weather.

Nor is Mr. Morison of Bognie, the only gentleman, in this very extensive parish, who has distinguished himself by attempts to improve and beautify the country. Captain Shand of Templand, has exhibited a plan of drawing water over, and raising timber on that small spot, which at first, indeed, attracted some notice, merely from its novelty and singularity ; but his plantations having succeeded beyond what was expected, his scheme has rather become exemplary, at least, I am sure, that all the tenants on the estates of Bognie, who have

have embraced the liberal proposal of their landlord, have executed their plantations on the Captain's principles and ideas. This officer, after an absence of 12 or 13 years in the service of his country, returning again to his native soil, in the year 1784, and finding his property then a perfect waste, took up the resolution of enclosing it with double stone fences and ditch. After which, it occurred to him, that the intermediate space included between the fences, might as well take in (if it could be so contrived) all, or greatest part of the worst soil; and thus he at last conceived the comprehensive and uncommon design of fencing the arable by the barren ground; not doubting, when the latter was filled with all proper kinds of young trees, that his best fields would thereby, in due time, be well secured and protected from blighting winds and storms. Every succeeding year gives fresh testimony of the propriety of the original plan: For it has been executed under almost every disadvantage, particularly his own absence, and the intermediate management of people incapable of entering fully into his views. The plan for watering the farm of Templand, is no less worthy of notice, than the planting, though the proprietor's absence, and many other unfavourable circumstances, have united to render the success less. However, there is sufficient evidence from the little that has been done, that water sediment, and other effects arising from flooding, with large streams, is probably the very best method of meliorating ground, and exterminating the most pernicious weeds. It also appears from the Captain's experiments, that water properly conducted through young timber plantations, is the cheapest and best method of encouraging their growth. This gentleman's ideas in conducting great currents of water for agricultural purposes, have been extended to carry plans of inland navigation into execution, upon moderate expenses, as appears by his epistolary correspondence

spondence with gentlemen in this country, and from some recent publications. But this, not belonging to a statistical account, I shall leave it to others.

We must not pass by the improvements and plantations of Captain George Morison, late of Haddo. Haddo lies on the N. W. side of the burn of Forgue, about an English mile below where the church stands, keeping the course of the rivulet. The house stands on a gradual sloping bank, a few yards from the burn, built after the modern taste, and affords genteel accommodation for a large family. On the haugh between the rivulet and water course to the mill, lies the garden, fenced with a high stone wall, and well stored with a great variety of fruit trees and bushes. At no great distance from the house, there are several patches of thriving plantations of fir, alder, birch, &c. The fields are well cultivated, and yield good crops. Taking the whole in one view, Haddo is one of the most pleasant situations in this or the neighbouring country, and is justly admired for its variegated prospect, by every person of taste and discernment. Some of the other heritors have begun to plant, enclose, and improve their fields; but their improvements are in an infant state \*.

*Antiquities.*—Till lately, the Roman antiquities have been little attended to in this country. By many, it was even believed

\* *Wages and Prices.*—The wages of servants have increased greatly within a few years. A capable ploughman receives from 6l. to 7l. It is said, that some of them draw 8l. A female servant 2l. 10s. to 3l. a-year. To a man in harvest 1s.; to a woman 9d., with victuals; to a day-labourer from 6d. to 8d., with victuals; to a mason 1s. 2d.; to a wright 8d.; and to a tailor 6d. to 8d., with victuals. The price of provisions has increased considerably since 1780. A hen which sold at 4d., now gives 8d. and 9d. Beef and mutton sell from 2*½*d. 3d. to 4d. the pound. Butter sells at 8d. the pound, 22 ounces; and cheese from 4s. 6d. to 5s. the stone weight.

lieved that the troops of that warlike people, had never penetrated, by land, beyond the Grampian mountains. But Captain Shand of this parish, justly admiring the wise policy of the Romans, in their military arrangements, was anxious, some years ago, to trace the remains of the numerous field works, executed by their armies, during their operations in North Britain, and from an accurate inspection of them, was convinced, that the fortifications on the Barra-hill, and the extensive camp opposite to Glenmealin, were as much Roman, as the topographical vestiges he had observed in Strathmore, and other South-Grampian countries \*.

*Roads.*—The roads are not in very good repair, owing, in a great measure, to the nature of the soil, and the statute-labour being commuted. It would be better to levy the money,

\* It is not a little remarkable, that the larger works in this parish, are attended the same as in the south country, with smaller ones, some round, and others of a rectangular figure. The circular redoubt on the S. E. acclivity of the feed-hill of Auchaber, about a short mile from the camp, is well preserved, and appears to have been an entrenched guard for a small number of men, being only 20 common paces in diameter, including both the vallum and the body of the place. Proceeding from this remarkable spot, in a nearly N. W. direction, for 5 or 6 miles, by Woodside in the lands of Frendraught, the Riach-hill, the Riach-burn, and Auchingouli, one very frequently meets with remains, that are not farmers works; and though tradition, and the prevailing opinion of the country people, place them among military, yet they can scarcely be called so, on account of being so much mutilated. But it seems worthy of observation, that if the *Sectio ad Ithurnem*, is situated (as there is great reason to think) at the confluence of the burn of *Auld Davis* in this parish, with the Ythan, the track just pointed out, cannot be widely distant from the great consular road, in Ptolemy's Itinerary; and a learned antiquary, a friend of mine, now deceased, thought he had discovered the actual antique causeway leading on through Forgue, Deskford, and towards Spey, upon the same point of the compass. There are also vestiges of several Druidical temples in the parish.

ney, and to employ labourers, under direction of an attentive and capable overseer. We have reason to conclude, that were there a bridge thrown over the Dovern, at Marnoch, and another over the burn at Auchintender, on the great road to Aberdeen, through the Garioch, it would contribute much to the advantage of this country.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The crop in 1782, was remarkably deficient, and the oat-meal very bad; in so much, that had it not been for the importation, numbers would have perished. Some of the heritors commissioned a cargo of pease, and sold them out at prime cost to the most necessitous families. Messrs. Phyn and Ellis \*, merchants in London, gave a liberal gratuity of barley and pease, amounting to 800 bushels, to be distributed among the most distressed families in Forgue and Auchterleſſ. It was supposed, that the crop did not yield provision for the parishioners, for the half of the year 1783. At the desire of the heritors, the session lifted 40l., and disposed of it to the same purpose, over and above their ordinary distribution. The air is salubrious, the people, in general, healthy, sober, industrious, charitable, hospitable, and most punctual in attending public worship †.

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\* Mr. Phyn is an heritor of Forgue, and Mr. Ellis a native of Auchterleſſ.

† There is no village in the parish, and consequently no manufacture. The women are occupied in spinning linen yarn, from flax given out by merchants in the parish.

The usual fuel in this parish, is peat and turf, which is brought from Fouldland; but, on account of the great distance and difficulty of procuring it, many of the parishioners are obliged to bring coals, at a great expense, from Banff and Portsoy, our nearest sea-port towns; which are distant from the centre of the parish, at least, 17 English miles. Which circumstance, we think, may be reduced as an argument for taking off the present heavy duty on coal.

## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF RUTHVEN.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS, PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES WILL.*

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*Situation, Extent, Soil, and Produce.*

THE parish of Ruthven is pleasantly situated on the N. side of Strathmore, near the foot of the Grampian mountains, sloping gently towards the S. Nearly of a square form, it contains about 1700 acres, of which 63 are covered with natural oaks, 240 with fir and hard wood, 40 of heath, to be planted, 30 of marl-mires, and 16 of peat-moss: The rest is partly arable, and partly to be improved during the currency of the present leases. The soil, in general, is a light hazel mould, with a gravelly bottom, producing excellent grain, but liable to be parched in a dry summer. The present proprietor has been at great pains to introduce the modern improvements in agriculture, which he has accomplished

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In a considerable degree, by restricting his tenants to a rotation of cropping the last time their farms were let. The rotation is as follows : field, 1st, grass; 2d, ditto; 3d, ditto; 4th, oats; 5th, barley; 6th, oats; 7th, fallow, or green crop; 8th, barley with grass-seeds. The tenants, from the prejudices of education, came into these improvements rather reluctantly at first. They are now, however, as forward in them as their neighbours, and begin to experience the advantages of them. They are restricted from raising wheat or flax, in considerable quantities, because these have been found to be rather exhausting crops for the soil. The parish, however, was always remarkable for producing fine flax, but more so, it is said, before the introduction of marl. A greater quantity, indeed, might be raised now than formerly, but, in the opinion of experienced farmers, there is no comparison as to the quality. The soil is favourable for turnip and trees of every kind, suited to the climate. The larix, in particular, grows with uncommon quickness, some of them only 15 years old, having measured 46 inches root girth. Oaks grow naturally; and in a former period some of them were of great size, if we may judge from two which have remained time immemorial in the old course of the river Isla, about a mile below the church.

*Name and Proprietors.*—The etymology of the name is doubtful\*. It was anciently expressed in the plural, Ruthvens, having been divided into two parts, and belonged to two different proprietors : That on the E. side of the river Isla was termed Earls Ruthven, as having been the property of the

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\* It is pronounced Riven; and, if a conjecture might be hazarded in a matter of so much uncertainty, might be supposed to be compounded of the Gaelic words *re* (red), and *vean* (white), perhaps from the soil in general abounding with small white stones, or rather from the appearance of the rocks, on the banks of the river in the N. side of the parish, which are of a red colour, but in many places whitened over with age.

Earl of Crawford, who, at one period, possessed a great part of the county of Forfar ; the other part was called Ruthvens Davy, as having belonged to the laird of Kippen Davy. About 1380, both these estates came into the possession of a branch of the family of Crichton, who kept them until 1742 \*. After the Frendraught family became extinct, and the Dumfries family failed in the male line, the head of the Ruthven family became chieftain of the ancient and illustrious name of Crichton. Upon the death of the late Thomas Crichton, Esq. of Millhill, and his brother William, the family of Crichton of Ruthven failed in the male line also. The remaining part of their estates, which had been once very extensive in this neighbourhood, was purchased 50 years ago by Thomas Ogilvy, Esq. of Coul, and is now in the possession of his son James Ogilvy, Esq. of Islabank, who resides in this parish, and has built an excellent modern house, near the much admired situation of the castle of Ruthven, which, being ruinous, was pulled down some years ago.

*Hills, River, Black-fishing, Bridge.—There are no hills in this*

\* The first of that family who held the barony of Ruthven was James, second son of Stephen Crichton of Cairns, brother to George Crichton, Earl of Caithness, and cousin to Sir William Crichton of Crichton, Lord Chancellor of Scotland. In the year 1477, James Crichton of Ruthven was Lord Provost of Edinburgh ; another of the same name, who had the honour of knighthood, was master of horse to King Charles II. It is said, that the haughty disposition of Sir James prevented him from enjoying long his elevated station ; and that his merry monarch having, on a particular occasion, made him a present of 500 l., with a recommendation to "creish his boots" with it, alluding to his country and his office, the knight took offence at the expression, returned the money, resigned his office, and retired to Scotland. But, habituated to the extravagance of a court he had abandoned, he dissipated his fortune, and gave a blow to the family estate which it never recovered. There is a fine portrait of Sir James by Vandyke, in the possession of his descendant, in the female line, John Kinlock Esq. of Kilrie.

this parish, though some rising grounds improperly retain that name. Upon one of these, called Candle-hill, the place is to be seen where the barons of Ruthven erected a gibbet in feudal times. Two of those eminences are distinguished by the name of Laws, upon one of which there was a large cairn some years ago. The only river in the parish is the Isla, which, after bounding it for upwards of a mile on the N. side, turns suddenly in the direction from N. W. to S. E., dividing the parish into two unequal parts, leaving the largest on the E. side. The upper part of its course is rocky and winding, with bold and steep banks, covered in many places with natural woods, and affording some very romantic scenery. After passing the Lin, which is a fall over several ridges of broken rock, the river resolves itself into a pool, called the Corral, probably a corruption of Quarry-hole, there appearing to have been a quarry on the E. side, at some remote period. This pool is deep and broad, but becomes more shallow toward the S., and ends in the broad ford, famous in the annals of black fishing. Upon leaving the ford, the river divides itself into two branches, forming a small island, called Stanner Island, containing about 6 acres : afterward, diversified with rapid streams and gentle meanderings, it continues to extend through level and fertile fields. In winter, the low grounds are greatly injured by the river shifting its course, carrying away the rich soil, and depositing barren sand and gravel in its place. It would be greatly to the advantage both of proprietors and tenants, that a straight channel was cut for this river, through its haughs or low grounds, for about 8 miles, from the S. side of this parish, where the river begins to take a direction to the westward, to the bridge of Cupar Angus. The river is well stocked with trout and salmon. In the months of October and November, the latter come here to spawn, at which time great havock is made among

mong them by the black-fishers. The practice of black-fishing is so called, because it is performed in the night time, or because the fish are then black or foul. At this season, they frequent the gravelly shallows, where the female digs considerable holes, in which she deposits the roe. During this operation, which usually continues for some weeks, the male attends her, and both are in a very torpid state. The black-fishers, provided with spears, composed of 5 barbed prongs, fixed upon a strong shaft, wade up and down upon the shallows, preceded by a great torch, or blaze, as it is called, consisting of dried broom, or fir tops, fastened round a pole. By this light the fish are soon discerned, and being then very dull, are easily transfixed. Formerly regular fish courts (as they were called), were held once a-year at least, before the justices of the district, where persons suspected of this practice were put upon oath, and if they refused to clear themselves in that manner, or if their guilt was proved by proper evidence, they were liable to fines and imprisonment. At present, no attention is paid to prevent a practice equally against the laws of the country, destructive of the health, and subversive of the morals of those who follow it. The fish, at this season, are very unwholesome food; the strongest constitutions often suffer from wading up to the middle in water for hours together in the dead of the night of all the year; and a black-fishing match often ends in drunkenness and debauchery. There is a bridge of 2 arches over the river Isla in this parish, on the high road from Dunkeld and Blairgowrie to Kerriemuir and Brechin. It is not known when it was built, but, from its construction, being narrow, appears to be ancient. It was lately repaired, and is of great service to the country, there being only other 2, besides it, upon the river, from its source at Caentochan, in the head of Glenisla parish, to its junction with the Tay at Kinclaven, in a stretch upwards of 40 miles.

The

The many melancholy accidents which have happened of the fords of this river, might be expected to work the feelings of all concerned, so far as to induce them one more at least to the number.

*Ecclesiastical Matters, Stipend, Poor, &c.—*Tradition that the church of Ruthven was erected by the Earl of Ford, proprietor of the barony of Inverquiech, for the accommodation of his tenants, several of them having been by the Rollots of Balloch, in going to their parish church Alyth. Afterward, when the turbulent neighbours were moved, and the church became of no further use to the tenants of Inverquiech, the proprietor of Ruthven got the manor erected into a separate parish, and obtained the patronage of Crawford's chapel, which lay convenient, to be the church, and the lands mortified to its minister to be a stipend. It does not appear how this transaction was brought about; probably it might have been through the interference of the abbot of Arbroath, who was both patron of the parish and titular of the tithes. Upon the forfeiture of the Panmure family, in 1715, the right of patronage devolved to the Crown: the minister is titular of the tithes by a gift in the year 1634, from the Marquis of Hamilton, then proprietor of the Abbey-lands, to Mr. Patrick Crichton, minister of Ruthven, and his successors in office. The stipend is the minimum, and has never been augmented. The parsonage consists of upwards of 20 acres of good soil, is pleasantly situated on the W. bank of the river Isla, with a gentle declivity to the S. and E. The living, including, the glebe, is reckoned rather better than 60 l. *communibus annis*.—There is a fund of upwards of 100 l. for the support of the poor, which was lately augmented by a legacy of 20 l. from Andrew Pitcairn, writer in Dundee, whose father, M

Bert Pitcairn, was the first minister here after the Revolution. The collections amount to about 5 l. yearly. There is at present only one poor family, consisting of a mother and children, who receive a weekly allowance from the fund.

*Rent of the Parish, Population and Manners.*—The present rent of the parish is 630 l. All the leases have 17 years to run, except one, which will expire in 3 years; and a considerable rise of rent is expected from that farm. The above rent is exclusive of the oak, and other plantations, the mosses, marl, the annual value of which cannot easily be ascertained. The oaks are sold once in 20 years for the bark: the last time they were cut down, about 18 years ago, they gave nearly 200 l. From the increased value of oak-bark, a very great rise is now expected. At the last cutting, between 3000 and 4000 of the best trees were reserved, which have thriven remarkably.

According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 280. The number of the parishioners in all, is now 220: The medium number of births, for the last 7 years, is 7, and of deaths 4. The parish has been gradually on the decrease, owing to the enlarging of the farms. This has also contributed, in a great degree, to the removal of the cottagers\*.

The

\* The tenants being restricted from subletting more or less, are effectually prevented from having cottagers upon the old establishment. Until very lately, all of them had their proportion of these useful dependants. Every cottage family in this parish, possessed a house, garden, grass for one cow, and one computed acre of good ground. The ground was laboured by the farmer, who also drove out their dung, brought home their corn and fuel, consisting of peat and turf. The one half of their acre was in oats, the other in barley. The rent was 1 l. a-man reaper in harvest. The cottager and his family were subject to the call of the farmer, for what other work he might need, and were paid according to the rate of the country. With these advantages, and their own industry

The parishioners are all of the Established Church, except 2 of the Church of England, who attend public worship regularly in the parish church, while they reside here. The parishioners, for the most part, are employed in agriculture; there are, however, a few manufacturers, tradesmen, millers, and day-labourers. They are, in general, honest, sober and industrious, living peaceably and comfortably. Theague was formerly very common among them, probably from their poor way of living; but now it is scarcely ever heard of.

*Antiquities.*—On the S. and W. side of the parish, there is an enclosure of great antiquity, concerning the use of which tradition gives no account. It is nearly of a square form, and contains about an English acre of ground. The walls, which are of earth, as far as can be judged, have been originally of considerable height and breadth. A deep and wide ditch on the outside of the wall, filled with water from an adjoining morass, is still almost entire. This fort, now known by the name of Castledykes, was probably a place of retreat to the neighbourhood in times of turbulence and barbarism. The north part of this parish is said to have been the scene of engagement between the English and Scotch forces, under King Edward and Robert Bruce. Although there is no mention of this skirmish in history, yet it is confirmed by several monuments of antiquity and tradition: confirmed in this manner, it must ever be valuable in a country where authentic records have been destroyed by the barbarous policy of its invaders. The English army seems, at this time, to have been

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stationed

at home, the cottagers, in general, lived comfortably according to their station, and brought up a numerous and hardy offspring. For the most part they have emigrated to the manufacturing towns, and their removal has proved, in many respects, an essential loss to the interests of agriculture, particularly for one article, having rendered country servants and day-labourers very expensive, and difficult to be got.

stationed on the S. side of Strathmore, at Ingliston, (*i. e.* English town) where remains of their camp are still discernible; the Scotch forces, or a considerable part of them, at least, on the N. side of the strath, at the foot of the Grampian mountains, having their front covered by the river Isla. A conical mount in this parish, called Saddle-hillock, is said to have been made use of by the English, perhaps to command the ford at Dellavaird, whilst their troops marched over to attack the Scotch, and to have received its name from some circumstance which took place on that occasion, but which is not distinctly related. The hillock stands upon a very level field, is of considerable height, and has upon its top the remains of a small earthen fort, evidently artificial; and appears from an opening made in its side, to have been composed of large stones, some of which are smoothed, as if they had been taken from the bed of the river. Whether it was erected on this occasion, or whether it might not have been much more ancient, it is not easy to determine. It would appear that the English were repulsed in their attempt to ford the river, pursued by the Scotch, and brought to an engagement, to the S. of the river, and hillock above mentioned, where, under a huge cairn in the E. moor (heath) of Ruthven, their dead are said to be buried. On the S. side of the river, in the parish of Alyth, the place where the Scotch forces were stationed, still goes by the name of Brucetown; and 2 large standing stones are still to be seen erected in remembrance of this event. Upon one of these is a representation of a horseshoe, an emblem sufficiently expressive in the eventful history of the celebrated Scottish hero \*.

In

\* This evidently alludes to Bruce's narrow escape from England, when Edward had resolved to murder him. "Brusius interea per comitem Gomeris a vitium amicum certior de repentina periculo factus; qui non ausus fugae consilium

In the E. moor above mentioned, are two large granites, a species of stone rather uncommon in this neighbourhood, standing erect, between 5 and 6 feet above ground, at the distance of 12 feet from each other, and having each a flat side fronting due S. There are 2 smaller stones to the S. of the large ones, and 48 feet distant from them, and at right angles, but 12 feet distant from each other. The largest granite is on the W. side, and 20 feet in circumference. These stones might be considered as some Druidical monument; the more so, as the farm adjoining is called Draffan, which, according to some, is a corruption of Druidum Fanum, that is a temple, or place of worship of the Druids \*.

Several stone coffins have been dug up in the parish, containing fragments of human bones, apparently of great size. Besides the cairns above mentioned, there is a number of smaller ones in this parish, one of which, known by the name of Crian's Gref, said to have been erected upon the grave of a noted robber, seems to indicate, that the sepulchral tumulus was not always raised in honour of the dead.

*Minerals, Moss and Marl.*—The parish abounds in mineral springs,

lum litteris committere, Brusii exemplo monitus, ad eum calcaria inaurata, nummosque aliquot aureos misit, tanquam superiore hæc die mutuo ab eo accipisset. Robertus, ut in periculis homines sunt sagaciiores, non ignarus quid eo manere significaretur, fabrum de nocte accersit, trium equorum soleas inversas ac preposteras equis affigere jubet, ne vestigia, velut abeuntium, per nivem fugam proderet.—BUCH.

\* Unfortunately for this conjecture, the following doubts occur:—1. It is doubtful if the Druids had any temples that were rectangular, or even circular, or any places of worship whatever, except groves. 2. It is doubtful if any Druids inhabited this part of the island. 3. Granting they did, it is doubtful if they or our forefathers, at that time, knew any thing of the Latin language. If the learned antiquary could sufficiently remove the two first of these, the latter might easily be got over, by supposing the name to have been of a latter date.

springs, seemingly of different kinds, but their medicinal qualities have never as yet been ascertained. A steel spring was discovered lately near the manse. It is generally pure, but at times turbid, emitting periodically considerable quantities of reddish ochreous substance. There is a peat-moss in the parish, but it is difficult of access, except in a very dry summer. The principal dependence of the parishioners for fuel, is upon coal from Dundee, the nearest sea port. The parish contains shell marl, of very fine quality. It is found, for the most part, under peat-moss; sometimes, however, under sand, and, what is remarkable, at one place, under a bed of pure clay, upwards of 3 feet thick. There is, indeed, a field of clay in the neighbourhood, but, as there is no running water near it, except small springs, it is not easy to conceive the length of time requisite for these, or the ordinary washing of rain-water, to have carried away and deposited such a tenacious substance as clay, to such a thickness above the marl, which, from its nature, must have been formed by degrees in the bottom of a lake. It is upwards of 50 years since this useful manure was discovered; but, such was the ignorance and obstinacy of the country people, that it was a long time before they would avail themselves of it. It is even told, that some of the neighbouring proprietors were under the necessity of binding their tenants under a penalty to make use of a certain quantity of it yearly. Afterward, however, when they began to perceive its effects upon the soil, from want of restriction, they overcropped some of their fields to such a degree, that they feel the effects of it to this day, and, in some places, are reduced to a *caput mortuum*. A cart of marl i. e. as much as could be cast up with one spade in one day, amounting often to 200 bolls, did not cost then above 18 d. or 2 s.; it is now sold at 10d. a-boll, at the neighbouring moss of Baikie, in the parish of Airth, their being none disposed of at present in

this

this parish. A vein of clay marl, of a red and yellow colour, was observed here several years ago, and found to answer well with the dry grounds. It was afterward discovered to be a species of fuller's earth; but the discovery came too late, as the vein by that time was nearly exhausted.

*Advantageous Situation for Machinery.*—At Balbirnie, upon the E. side of the river Isla, there is a good situation for a distillery. Farther up the river, and on each side of the Lin, where the corn and woalkmills stand, there are excellent situations for machinery, where, with little expense, a great body of water could be procured during the whole year, to any necessary height. There are two other situations for mills, at present unoccupied. The one at the bridge on the N. side, where there was a woalk (or fulling) mill formerly; the other at a little distance on the S. side of the bridge, where a lint-mill stood some years ago. It might be mentioned, that there would be a capital situation for machinery on the water ridge of the glebe, with an excellent freestone quarry, within 200 yards of it. What would be greatly in favour of this situation, is, that the low glebe, consisting of about 10 acres of fine soil, lies directly above the water ridge, is very level, and might be watered, in every direction, for bleaching ground, by a small rivulet which never dries up, called the Kirkton burn. The abundance of freestone in this parish, its centrical situation to the manufacturing villages of Cupar Angus, Alyth, and Kirriemuir, its moderate distance from the flourishing town of Dundee, being only 15 miles, and 12 of these upon a turnpike road; the pleasantness and fertility of the country, and the reasonable price of provisions added to the water-falls above mentioned, seem to concur in pointing out this little parish as a desirable spot for machinery and manufacture. Something of this kind is much wanted to quicken

en the industry of the tenants, and give a ready market to many articles at present of little value. It is to be hoped, that these natural advantages will not always be overlooked, and that an observing and industrious age will at length avail itself of circumstances so strikingly favourable.

*State of the Parish 50 years ago.*—Agriculture was in the same rude state in this parish 50 years ago, that it had been for time immemorial, without any improvement or alteration whatever. A small portion of the farm, called the infield, which lay contiguous to the house, received all the dung, and was kept constantly in crop with barley and oats, or sometimes with flax, as the ground was in condition to bear it. The rest of the farm was called the outfield, and kept for pasture, in such natural grass as it could produce. That part of the outfield which was arable, after remaining three years in grass, was cropped for other three years successively with black oats, an inferior kind of grain, of which 2 bolls at least were required to give 1 boll of meal. Unacquainted with the method of raising artificial grasses, and unable to maintain their bestial upon their scanty pasture, the tenants were under the necessity of sending the greater part of them to the glens in the Highlands, from the conclusion of the feed-time, about the beginning of June, until about the middle of September. From the want of turnip, and other green food, their cattle were poorly fed in winter, and their cows gave little or no milk. In place of milk, they were necessitated to have recourse to the wretched substitute of skrine, or unboiled flummery, prepared from the refuse of oatmeal soaked in water. A cow was never known to have a calf oftener than once in two years. Animal food was never seen in a farmer's house above once or twice a-year. The rent was trifling, but the tenant was inactive, persiting in the beaten track

ck of imperfect agriculture, and seldom seeking bely subsistence. Yet those who have lived to experience wonderful change which half a century has produced, do that they were formerly unhappy ; satisfied with it none of them were rich, neither were there any really their great dependence at that time was upon their sheep which they bred and maintained considerable numbers. At the separation of the crop from the ground, the fields were then a kind of common pasturage, until the ensuing time ; but upon the introduction of sown grass and turnips became necessary to put away the sheep ; and there are only a very few for private use. The whole of the was manufactured in the parish into a kind of coarse woven cloth, with part of which the farmer clad himself amily ; the remainder was sold to help to pay the rent. The flax which was then raised, and which, like the wool, considerable in quantity, but more so in quality, was manufactured in the parish for home consumption, or sold in The following table, from good information, may serve to a comparative state of this parish, and even throw some on the state of other parishes, not only at the period all to, but for a long time back.—*Note* : 50 years are mentioned because some authentic documents refer to that period. No iteration whatever was observed here, until about 35 years ago. In the first column in the article Servants Wages, there are some perquisites called bounties, amounting from 5 to 10 s. yearly, not included ; in the second column all perquisites are included.

## COMPARATIVE STATE of the PARISH for Years 1742 and 1792

*Those marked thus \*, are conversion prices, and may be reckoned a shilling at least below the market.*

	1742.	1792.
Number of parishioners,	280	220
of tenants, - - -	40	12
of ploughmen, - - -	31	37
of work-horses, - - -	50	52
of work-cattle, - - -	86	None
of young cattle bred yearly, - - - -	40	81
of cattle maintained yearly, - - - -	210	278
of sheep, - - -	1050	
of lbs. of wool, - - -	525	
of stones of hay, - - -	None	12,000
of acres of turnip,	None	50
Rent of the parish, - - -	L. 280 0 0	L. 630 0 0
Wages of a man servant. -	2 0 0	10 0 0
of a halfin (between man and boy), - - - -	0 11 8	5 0 0
of a herd, - - - -	0 5 0	1 10 0
of a woman servant,	0 13 4	4 0 0
of a man reaper, - - -	0 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 10 0
of a woman reaper,	0 8 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 0
of a day labourer, with victuals, - - - -	0 0 3	0 0 10
Price of a horse, - - - -	5 0 0	25 0 0
of an ox, - - - -	2 10 0	8 0 0
of a calf, - - - -	0 4 0	0 16 0
of a sheep, - - - -	* 0 4 0	0 10 0
of a hog, - - - -	* 0 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 0 0
of a cart, - - - -	0 15 0	9 0 0
of a plough, - - - -	0 2 6	2 2 0
of wheat, the boll, - - -		1 1 0
of barley and oatmeal,	* 0 8 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 16 0
of pease, - - - -		0 15 0
of feed oats, - - - -	0 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 16 0

Price

	1742.	1792.
Price of malt, - - - -	L. 0 11 1½	L. 1 4 0
— of corn with fodder, -	I 0 0	I 0 0
— of hay the stone, - -		0 0 4
— of flax, - - - -	0 15 0	0 12 0
— of butter, - - - -	0 5 0	0 12 0
— of cheese, - - - -	0 3 6	0 5 6
— of wool the lib. - -	0 1 0	0 0 10
— of beef, mutton and pork, - - - - -	0 0 1	0 0 3½
— of a hen, - - - -	0 0 4	0 1 0
— of a chicken, - - - -	0 0 2	0 0 4
— of eggs the dozen, -	0 0 1	0 0 4

## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF AUCHTERLESS.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF TUR-  
REF.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER ROSE.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

THE name of the parish is said to be derived from the Gaelic. It is about 7 miles long and 3 broad. The soil is various; in some places a deep black mould, but the greater part is light and gravelly, intermixed with clay, which is early, and productive of good crops. There are no mountains nor hills. A small river or rivulet called Ythan, abounding with trouts, which takes its rise from two springs, runs from the S. W. to the N. E., and passes through the parish. In summer it can be stepped over in many places, but gradually increases by the addition of many other streams as it glides along towards the sea, and becomes a pretty large river at Ellon, where a fine bridge has lately been built.

*Population.*

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 1264. When the present incumbent was settled here in 1774, and visited his parish next spring, there were 1360 souls in it; at present there are scarcely 1200. This decrease is owing to several causes. On one estate some extensive farms have been waste, and several crofts for a number of years. On other estates, two farms have been put into one. On all these were many families, who have gone to manufacturing towns, or otherwise, where they have daily employment. There are not 40 dissenters in the parish; 3 of them Roman Catholics, 5 Seceders, and the rest Episcopals. There are 6 heritors, one of whom only resides in the parish at present. From January 1775 to January 1793, there have been 536 baptisms and 170 marriages, which, at an average, is 10 marriages and about 31 baptisms in the year.

*Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—A new handsome church was built in 1780, and the manse in 1769. The stipend, including communion elements, grass-money, &c. is about 40l. 10s. with 48 bolls oat-meal. An augmentation of 48 bolls meal, and a small addition for communion elements was decreed by the court of teinds in February 1791, but never yet localled. The glebe, and a small garden, measure 6 acres. The patronage is claimed by the Crown, and Mr. Duff of Hatton, the principal heritor: When a vacancy happens, both present to the living.—There is a parochial school here. The salary is 8l. 6s. 8d. By the session-clerkship, marriages, baptisms, and school-fees, the living will be, *communibus annis*, upwards of 20l.—There are at present 16 poor and indigent persons on the roll, principally reduced to poverty by old age and distempers. The fund for their maintenance arises from the voluntary contributions of the parishioners on the Sundays, and

at the time of the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It amounts, at present, to about 25 l. Sterling; which, with money for the pall, fines from delinquents, and the interest of 120 l. Sterling at 4½ per cent. distributed quarterly and occasionally, is adequate to their necessities, with what little some of them can earn for themselves. None of the parishioners are allowed to beg, as they are all supported in their own houses \*.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 3153 l. 7 s. Scots. The real rent about 1500 l. Sterling. The rents are paid partly in money and oat-meal, and a variety of customs and services. On some estates the tenants are bound to pay butter, ducks, hens, capons, &c. to dig, dry, carry home, and build up a certain quantity of peats, and to carry from the nearest sea-port, coals for the proprietors use. They are also bound for

\* By the famine in 1782 and 1783, the inferior ranks were reduced to the greatest extremity of want, and many would have perished without extraordinary assistance, which was cheerfully afforded. Happy for this country, providence brought about a peace; so that the pease which were laid up for the navy, were sold off, which was the saving of the North of Scotland. By large purchases of these and English barley, and by a noble and seasonable supply of these articles, gratuitously sent from London, by the humane and benevolent Messrs. Ph—n and E—is, the lives of the parishioners were preserved. The kirk-session's funds were reduced by the exertions made, from 180 l. to 120 l. Sterling. It is worthy of observation, that notwithstanding the scarcity, and that three-fourths of the people lived for several months almost wholly on pease-meal, to which they had not been accustomed, yet there never was in the memory of the oldest man living, better health enjoyed by the parishioners. The physician's aid was seldom wanted.

*Wages.*—A day-labourer has 8 d. a-day; a wright 8 d.; a tailor 6 d., all exclusive of victuals; men servants, for farming, from 7 l. to 8 l. a-year; women servants 3 l.; men hired for harvest 2 l., and women 20 s. All these are nearly double of what they were 30 years ago.

for a certain number of short and long carriages, *i. e.* errands with horses and carts; a certain number of reapers a day in harvest, and plough yokings and harrowing on the heritor's mains. These are all estimated as part of rent. On other estates few of these are exacted. On estates where the proprietors live at a distance, the customs and carriages are converted. These services and customs are great discouragements and hardships on the industrious improving tenant, which, it is to be hoped, will, ere long, become obsolete.

*Agriculture, &c.*—About 20 years ago, oxen-ploughs were mostly in use. Now there are only 14 oxen-ploughs in the parish. The improving tenants, in general, use the light English plough, drawn by 2 horses, of which some employ 3 or 4. Though the expense of horses is great, yet the large quantities of meal and bear they carry to market, or a sea-port, and the great quantity of lime they bring home for their grounds, obliges them to use horses for every purpose. Double carts for some years have been used by all the farmers who have strong horses. Oats, bear and pease, are the only kinds of grain sown here, principally the two first. Of these great quantities are raised, and much meal exported every year. Extensive fields are laid out yearly for hay and pasture. The grass-seeds are sown in with bear or oats; what is designed for hay is generally after turnip, of which large quantities are sown, some in broad cast, some in drills. The turnips are used for feeding, not only for the butcher and their own families, but principally for their young cattle, which the farmer finds much more for his advantage; as being fed on turnip through the winter and spring, and full grazing in the summer, they rise to a considerable size, and bring from 5 l. to 7 l. or upwards, at 3 years of age. Potatoes are planted in great abundance on every farm and croft. Upon the S. side

of

of the small water of Ythan, there is a great deal of rising ground, covered with short heath, little capable of improvement; yet there are some fine extensive farms on that side, well improved, except the moor ground. On the other side of said rivulet, a beautiful prospect presents itself to every stranger. The farms large and close, in general in high cultivation. Little more than 20 years ago, the greatest number of these fine and extensive farms were in the same neglected state with many others in the country. The leases were generally for 19 years. On one estate mostly liferents. By the first, the farmer tried to improve his ground for 9 or 10 years, and the remainder of his lease, he scourged and over-cropped it, by which he both injured himself and the position. By the second, or liferent leases, the judicious farmer saw he might ruin himself, by launching out too far in improving his farm, and might be cut off by death before he drew in any return for the expenses he had been at, and leave his family destitute. Therefore, to remedy these evils, several of them applied to the proprietors to have their leases lengthened out to a longer period. This several of the most improving tenants obtained, and got new leases for their own lifetime, 19 years after that, and a lifetime to one of their sons, upon paying a grassium or fine, or a moderate rise of rent at the commencement of each of these periods. This encouraged the spirited and enterprising tenant, which has had a most happy effect. The exertions they now make are very great. English shell lime is now brought from Banff or M'Duff, at the distance of 18 or 20 miles in large quantities. Instances are not wanting here of farmers carrying 400, 500, and even from 1000 to 1200 bolls to lay on their possessions in the course of one year, which will soon amply compensate them for this great expense. It has answered another valuable purpose, viz, setting such an example be-

fore

## *Of Auchterless.*

those in the lower walks of life, that has excited interest (and were properly encouraged), the like spirit of improvement will bring lime at the same distance to their crofts, or cottages, even when they have but one small horse and two farmers, some of them men of enlarged ideas, are to be reckoned. Conscious of the inconvenience and hard labour under, by the aforementioned services and custom, have let off part of their grounds to subtenants at a reasonable rent, have built houses for them, given them leave to exact not one day's service from them; only when we occasion to hire them as day-labourers, that they give them in preference to another.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Peats and turf have always been the fuel used here, which, in digging, drying and carrying home, employed the farmer and his servants the greater part of the summer; as the moors are at the distance of 6 miles from many of the farms. Now the more enlightened farmers use no more peats than is necessary for their kitchen fires, and drying their corns for meal, but choose rather to buy English coal from Banff or M'Duff, though the price is extravagantly high, sometimes 22 d. the barrel, of 12 cwt. weight. A few draughts of their carts will bring coal sufficient to serve them through the year: and thus they will have time during the summer for carrying lime for their farms. If the unequal and oppressive duty on coals carried coastwise were taken off, it would be the greatest advantage to this parish, (where the ordinary fuel is scarcely to be had, especially in wet summers), as well as it would be to the whole north of Scotland. There are about 1500 black cattle in the parish; 200 horses of various sizes; and 1600 sheep, mostly of the small Scotch breed; they have been improved in size and wool for some years, by the introduction of

ger tups. Sheep have decreased here in number since the general practice took place of laying down so much ground with clover, and other green crops.—The people are, in general, very regular in their attendance on public worship, and at pains to have their children educated. They are sober, industrious, charitable and humane, and live in great harmony with the few dissenters in the parish. The principal farmers have now good houses, live in a very genteel style, are sociable and hospitable, and their dress corresponds with their manner of living.—Neither lime nor marl are found in the parish. There are a few stone quarries, but of a bad quality, and very inaccessible, for which reason there are no stone fences. Earthen fences and ditches can only be obtained. On these, some have planted thorn hedges. There is great scarcity of wood: Only 3 plantations of firs, two of them young, and not fit, as yet, for any purpose. There is much ground covered with heath, and fit for no purpose but planting. No hard wood, but a few trees about gentlemen's houses. There is only 1 inn in the parish, on the post-road leading from Aberdeen to Banff; and as there is no post-office, letters and newspapers are left there by the post, and returns forwarded the same way to the first office. There are 7 corn-mills; and last year 3 threshing mills were erected, 2 of these go by horses, and 1 with water. Two or three others are in forwardness. There is only 1 fair, principally for sheep. No brewery or distillery. There are no manufactures established. Women are employed by the stocking merchants in Aberdeen in knitting stockings, and in spinning flax for the linen manufactures. There are a few Druidical circles, but not so large as in many other places. Superstition still spares them, though stones are so scarce. Also many cairns, &c.

*Antiquities.*—The most remarkable piece of antiquity in

this parish, and most worthy of attention, is the camp opposite to the farming village of Glenmailen, from which it is only divided by a deep ravine ; the small river of Ythan running in the bottom. One side of the work follows the gentle windings of the river's lofty bank ; two others are straight lines, the profiles of the vallum correct, and all the parts well defined, and in great preservation : The fourth side is obliterated so far by the plough, that it appears only like a large ridge of land, raised to a superior height. The interior area comprehends 90 acres Scotch, or 120 of English measure. The situation of this grand work appears advantageous, judiciously placed, just where the Ri-hill, (a part of the extensive moors of Fond-land), by a gentle declivity, is joined to the plain champaign country below, and covered at the distance of about 12 miles by another great work on Barra-hill, by a small station opposite to Pitcaple on the Uriel, or Glen-water, and surrounded by numerous other smaller fortified posts. In its near vicinity are found double lines of intrenchment on the hill, and farming ground of Tilly Murnen, having all the appearance of military works thrown up in ancient times : And still nearer, not far from its N. E. angle, on the N. side of the Ythan, and foot of the Berry-hill of Auchterless, there is a part of a ditch and rampart very distinct, the rest worn out by the lapse of time, and the constant operation of the plough. From the nature of the ground, however, where it stands, it could never have been of any considerable extent, probably no larger than the above mentioned military work near Pitcaple \*. The figure of the camp (by supposing it

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\* The appellations of ri-dikes, and grim-dikes, that have been given by the country people, sometimes only declare a pretty high antiquity, because the former being Gaelic, must have been given when that was the mother-tongue of the country ; and the latter grim or grumm being Teutonic, might have been imposed

bounded on the side of the river by a right line) is a parallelogram, but not rectangular, two of the opposite angles being acute, the other two obtuse, and the ratio of its sides nearly

imposed after the arrival of the Norwegians, which some ingenious historians think was about the 2d or 3d century of our era, when they were called in by the old inhabitants to assist them against foreign enemies. But who were the authors of all the stupendous military works, whether roads or places of defence, scattered over the country, we are no longer at a loss to know. An ingenious and worthy gentleman, a native of the neighbouring parish of Forgue, and who has served as an officer in the Royal corps of Artillery, since the year 1758, was desirous to compare what he had seen during his own time, with what could be still traced in the country, of Roman field fortification, and other topographical marks of their wise military institutions. His situation at Perth, in the duties of his profession, from the year 1785 to the end of 1787, gave him opportunities of spending a great deal of his spare time, in these wished-for researches, which having pursued with unremitting assiduity, he was at last enabled, contrary to an opinion which then prevailed, to demonstrate that the Roman armies had passed the Grampians by land, as well as that they had surrounded the coast-land by their shipping; the character, style, and manner of field fortification, being as evident, and as well supported in the Castellum of Barra-hill, and in the Castra sextiva at Glenmailen, as any where between them, and the prætentura of Agricola extending from Forth to Clyde. The fortified post opposite to Pitcable, and a paved way of 14 feet wide, pointing upon it from a stone fortress on the summit of Bennachee, bear strong marks of Roman character, and Roman exertion. Nor are the smaller posts of rivers near mill of Eastertown in Fyvie, the work on the farm of Ellis near Udny, and the elegant circular redoubt near the summit of the Seed-hill of Achabar, any ways inferior to works of the same kind on the other side of the Grampian mountains. But if it should still be thought that these observations and reasonings on the progress of the Roman armies are inconclusive, the testimony of Dio and Herodian, the Itinerary of Ptolemy, and above all, the *Britannia Romana* of Richard of Cirencester, lately found in Denmark, must necessarily remove all doubts. Nor is it exceeding doubtful that the very *Statio ad Ithunam* mentioned in the Itineraries, was near the great camp already described: For, our neighbouring gentleman, already quoted, has made many inquiries about antique intrenchments at Fyvie, Methlick, and Ellon, among the clergy and some other well informed people, but has met with no remarkable vestiges of

that

ly as 2 to 3. No monumental, or inscriptional stones, bricks, pottery, heads of spears, belts, spurs, or coins; brafs, copper or silver, have been yet discovered to demonstrate by what na-

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tion

that kind as yet, lower down the river than the above mentioned fragment at the foot of the Berry-hill. Neither is it any objection that the stream is too inconsiderable to be called by any proper permanent name within a short mile of its source, by a foreign nation; but that rivet, rather brook, is no sooner departed from its two springs, than it is called Ythan, and even those are called the Wells of Ythan; and it is well known to all who have perused the Roman Itineraries, that names given by indigenous inhabitants, especially of rivers, are retained with no other alteration than giving them a Latin termination: Such as Hierna, the Erne; Tina, the Tine; Taus the Ta, or Tay; Efica, the Esk; Dona, the Don, &c. Ithuna, the Ythan. The ingenious author (Captain A. S.) of the investigations, just recited, was at first inclined to believe the *Statio ad Ithunam*, was the work of the Emperor Severus, yet some of the best informed, and learned antiquaries will have it, that all the posts N. of the Grampians were constructed by Lollius Urbicus, the brave and gallant Lieutenant of Antoninus; and the late ingenious Major-General Roy, as soon as he perused the plan of Glenmailen and environs; with its explanation and references, put it down immediately in his *Mappa Britannæ Septentrionalis, Castra Agricolæ*. Therefore, it is to be presumed, it will be published in the next edition of the General's map of Scotland, and that some account of it will be given in the Appendix to his Posthumous Work, now probably printing off by the Society of London Antiquaries, to whom one of his manuscripts was bequeathed by latter will, the other remaining in the King's library.

The same ingenious gentleman, to whom the public is indebted for these observations, takes notice that something more should have been introduced about the Roman roads; as he is of opinion that the investigation of the great *via consulares*, and also the *vicinales*, is of more importance than a knowledge of the camps; but having heard that the late Mr. Lawtie of Fordyce, had made a discovery of some very ancient roads passing in a N. W. direction through the parish of Deskford, he did not add any thing farther on that subject, as Mr. Lawtie, no doubt, had taken notice of that in his report: Only the gentleman observes, if the intelligence concerning Mr. Lawtie is well grounded, it makes him still the more inclined to believe, that the track of the itinerary, crossed the Ythan and the Devoran rather at Glenmailen and Auchingotl, than at points lower down the river; and that it is by no means impossible that there may be found some part of it passing through this parish. He also takes notice,

that

tion this, or the other military works already mentioned have been constructed.

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that the principal or consular roads on the N. side Forth and Clyde, are 18 feet, and those of lesser note 16, 14, and 12 feet wide, and they are often paved with stone, sometimes done with gravel and sand, like the modern practice, and frequently raised above the level of the adjacent ground 3 feet high, with very deep ditches on each side.

N U M B E R   XXV.

**PARISH OF JURA AND COLONSAY.**

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLL, PRESBYTERY OF KINTYRE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. FRANCIS STEWART.*

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**T**HIS parish has the island of Ilay on the S., and that of Mull on the N.; it is bounded on the W. by the Atlantic, and on the E. by the Sea, which washes the coast of Cregnish, of north and south Knapdale, and part of Kintyre. Including sea, it is 50 miles long, and 30 broad. It consists of 9 islands, of which 6 are inhabited. Colonsay and Oronsay are separated by a narrow sound, which ebbs dry at low water, and they form the western division of the parish. About a league and a half to the E. lies the island of Jura. At the north end of Jura, are the islands of Scarba, Lunga, Balnahaigh, the Garveileachan, and Eileachan-naomh. As the island of Jura forms by far the most considerable part of the parish, we shall give it the first place in this account.

*Name,*

*Name, Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—There are various etymologies given of Jura. Some think that it was so denominated from the great quantity of yew trees which grew in the island. The name of the yew, in Gaelic, is Juar; hence, they say, Juarey; and, in a contracted form, Jurey, the island of Yew Trees. Buchanan says, that the ancient name of the island was Dera, which, in the Gothic language, signifies a flag. This account of the name seems the most probable, as there is still a considerable number of deer in the island, and, as the Gael pronounce it Diura, very near the Gothic Dera. The tutelary saint of the island was Fernadal; from him the burying-ground is denominated Kil-fhearnadail, or the Cell of Fernadal; also a large oblong stone on the shore, 3 miles S. W. from the Cell, Leac-fhearnadail, or the stone of Fernadal; and a farm, 2 miles N. E. of the Cell, Ard-fhearnadail, or the hill of Fernadal. The island of Jura, with its appendage of little islands at the N. end, stretches along opposite the coast of Cregnish, of Knapdale, and nearly as far S. as the N. end of Gigha. Towards the S. end it may be about 6 leagues from the continent, towards the middle about 3, and at the N. end not above 1. The length of the island is about 30 miles, the breadth various, but nowhere, it is believed, above 7 miles. As there has been no actual survey, the length and breadth are not exactly ascertained. The appearance of the island is very romantick, and calculated to raise sublime emotions in the spectator's soul. There is a ridge of towering mountains, which run from S. to N. along the W. side, terminating the prospect from the continent, and very often covered with clouds and darkness. These mountains are 4 in number. That to the S. is called Bein-schaolais, or the Peak of the Sound, as it stands over the Sound of Ilay; the next Bein-an-oer, or the Gold Peak; the third a Bhein-sheunta, the Consecrated Peak; and that to the

N. Corra-

**N. Corra-Bhein, the Steep Peak.** These peaks are seen from the continent of Argyllshire, and from part of Perthshire, from Buteshire, Ayrshire, Dumbartonshire, and, it is said, from part of Lanarkshire. They are seen at a great distance to the W., and are the first land which the sailors make, coming in their direction from the Atlantic Ocean. There is very little vegetation on these peaks, their summits and sides are covered over with fragments of stone, and exhibit a stupendous monument of the resistless force of time. The W. side of the island is not fit for cultivation ; it is wild and rugged, intersected with many torrents, which come rushing down from the mountains ; and has been deemed so inhospitable, that no person chooses to fix his habitation in it. All the inhabitants live on the E. side of the island. Along the margin of the sea, on this side, the grounds are pretty level ; but at a little distance from the shore, there is a gradual ascent. The whole of this side forms no unpleasing scene. The coast is, in several places, variegated with bays and harbours, and points of land ; the arable and pasture grounds spread on a declivity before the eye, and terminate at the base of those towering mountains, which form a romantick and awful background.

**Air, Climate, and Diseases.**—The air is pure and salubrious, as it is generally in the sea-coast, and in hilly countries. The clouds are, indeed, often intercepted by the high hills, and descend in torrents ; but we have constant breezes, sometimes brisk gales of wind, to dry up the rain. The tops of the mountains are covered with snow a considerable part of winter, but it seldom lies long on the low grounds. The inhabitants are very healthy, and many of them live to old age. A few weeks ago, died, a lady at the age of 96. She retained the use of her faculties to the last. Till within a few

few months of her death, she could walk about with considerable vigour, could read the smallest print, or thread the finest needle without the help of glasses. The diseases are few in number, owing, perhaps in a good measure, to the simple mode of living of the inhabitants. They are sometimes seized with inflammatory disorders; this seems to be occasioned by the lightness of their clothing, particularly of their bed-clothing, which is not sufficient to keep up the perspiration while they are at rest. They are liable to those disorders, which are occasioned by living much upon milk and fish. Of late, rheumatic complaints have become more general among the lower classes. We have had one dropical case, last summer, that proved fatal; several have died within the last twelvemonth of stomach complaints. There is no surgeon in the island, and they never send for one, except in cases which are deemed extremely dangerous. A great proportion of children die in infancy, and many of the mothers, though of a strong constitution, recover slowly in child-bed. Both these circumstances seem to be owing to unskilful treatment, for there is not a single bred midwife in the island. The small-pox, in the natural way, carried off many children in autumn 1791. The people entertain no prejudice against inoculation, but grudge the expense of it.

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil along the shore is thin and very stony; towards the moor it is clayey, and, in some places, there is improveable moss. As the arable ground lies on a declivity in the neighbourhood of high hills, the water is constantly oozing down through it, and, in many places, bursting out in little springs; so that it is what the low country farmers call spouty ground. The crops are oats, barley, potatoes, and flax. There has been no trial made of artificial grasses, though there are some spots proper for them. Com-

tion field pease, likewise, are not raised here, though, from the nature of the soil along the shore, they might prove a beneficial crop. Oats are, in general, a very unproductive crop, the greatest average returns are not above two and a-half. Potatoes and barley are more productive, and, were the ground properly managed, might prove very valuable crops. The system of farming here, has made very slow advances towards improvement, and is, at least, half a century behind that, in many parts of the low country. The farmer does nothing to his grounds all the summer. Although there is plenty of lime-stone on the opposite shore of Knapdale, and in the adjoining island of Ilay, and plenty of peat in Jura, for burning lime, yet no person remembers a single trial made of that manure. The only manure used is the sea-weed, which is to be had in great abundance, and gives one tolerable crop. This answers the contracted views of the farmer, who keeps the best patches of his ground constantly in tillage, and labours like one who is not certain of his possession beyond the present year. The farmers of this country are utter strangers to the mode of abridging labour. It is no uncommon thing to see 12 men and 20 horses at work in a farm, which 3 men and four horses would, on an improved plan, labour to much better purpose.

*Quadrupeds, Birds, &c.*—The tame animals are cows, horses, sheep, and goats. The small tenants, in general, overstock their grounds, so that the black cattle are rather small, and inferior to those of Ilay. The horses also, though hardy, are a very diminutive breed. The sheep of Jura are remarkable for the fineness of their wool, and the delicacy of their flesh. Were proper care taken to keep this breed from degenerating, by mixing with the Galloway sheep now introduced into the island; were it allowed to increase, and cover the greatest part

of the island, Jura, in the course of a few years, might have very considerable returns from its wool, and transport annually the increase of its flocks to richer pastures on the continent, where the mutton would greatly excel that of the English, or Low Country sheep. There are several flocks of goats in Jura, but they are much on the decrease. They are not so profitable as sheep; they carry no fleece, and their flesh is inferior. The inhabitants of this island would find it their interest to banish two-thirds of the horses which they keep, to rear fewer black cattle, and to extend their stock of sheep and goats. As there is very little meadow ground in the island, and the arable ground makes such poor returns in oats, it ought certainly to be the grazier's object to keep such a stock principally as would shift for itself in winter.

There are one or two herds of red deer traversing the mountains. We have plenty of grouse, some termagan, and black game; but no partridge, no hare, and very few rabbits. Among our birds of prey are the eagles, which build their nests in the inaccessible precipices on the W. side of Jura, and prove very destructive to the kids and lambs. The fish commonly caught here are cuddies, and sayths. In autumn there are some lythe, and small cod. There is a very delicate fish that may be had through the whole year, called by the country people murloch. It is very long in proportion to its thickness, and, in shape, resembles the dog-fish; it is covered with a very rough skin, like shagreen, of which it must be stripped. In an arm of the sea that runs in on the W. side, and almost divides Jura in the middle, there are great quantities of lobster, oysters, and craw-fish. The marine plant, of which kelp is made, grows in great abundance on the shores. Before the general use of Barilla, the kelp of Jura was a considerable addition to its rental.

*Harbours.*—There are two very fine harbours on the E. side of the island; that to the S. is called the Small Isles; and that to the N. the Lowland-Man's Bay. They are within a few miles of each other. The harbour at the Small Isles is a capacious bay, about 4 miles in extent. Into the mouth of this bay are thrown longitudinally 3 or 4 islands, which leave but narrow openings into the harbour, and form a strong barrier against the violence of the sea. It is from these islands that the harbour takes its name. Lowland-Man's Bay opens towards the S., is contracted at the entrance by 2 points of land, which run out, like two arms, but is pretty capacious within. The harbour of Small Isles is rather shallow for vessels of great draught of water, but this is deep enough for any vessel. Notwithstanding the excellence of these harbours, and that Jura is only a few hours sailing from the lochs where herrings are fished, there is no vessel above 5 or 6 tons burthen belonging to the island, and of these there is none employed in the fisheries. The course of the tides along the coast of Jura, particularly in the sound of Scarba, and in that of Ilay, is very rapid. The navigation of the sound of Ilay is dangerous, not only from the rapidity of the tides, running 6 miles an hour, and from the sudden squalls which come from the neighbouring hills, but also from foul ground. Many vessels have been lost in this dangerous sound. As a considerable number of those trading to the north seas have occasion to pass through it, one should think that it ought to be carefully examined and surveyed, to see what improvements are practicable.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1097. To ascertain the present population of this parish, a survey was made in June 1792.

## ISLAND OF JURA.

Farms	{ In tillage, -	15	{ In pasturage,	12	Total, -	27
Families in the island,	2c4		Females,	-	-	472
Souls,	-	929	Widowers,	-	-	6
Males,	-	458	Widows,	-	-	42

As the present incumbent has not been long in the parish of Jura, and as he has not been able to procure former examination rolls, it is out of his power to give a statement of the population prior to the date of his own survey. Emigrations to America have proved, once and again, a drain to this island; but, in the present mode of management, it may be said to be still overstocked with inhabitants. Near half the farms in the island are in pasture, and require very few hands to manage them. Of course, the great body of the people live in the farms, which are in tillage. In some of these there are between 50 and 60 souls. Such a swarm of inhabitants, where manufactures, and many other branches of industry are unknown, are a very great load upon the proprietors, and in a great measure useless to the state. The slightest survey of the situation of the people shows how much improvements in farming, and the introduction of industry, are wanted. The spirit of emigration is still powerful in the island, and requires considerable alterations to extinguish it \*.

*Metals,*

\* As there was no register of births and marriages kept in the parish till within these few years, the author found it impracticable to trace back the matter so far as might be wished; but has gone as far back as the commencement of the parish records.

## MARRIAGES.      BIRTHS.

Years.	No.	No.
1787	6	23
1788	8	18

*Metals, Minerals, &c.*—There is iron-ore, and manganese in Jura: about the middle of the island, there is a considerable body of slate; small quantities have been quarried, and the colour and quality seem to be very good. There is to be found also, on the W. side of the island, in great abundance, a very fine kind of sand used in the manufacture of glass.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—There are several barrows through the island; there are also pillars, and castellums, or duns. There is one relic of antiquity of a singular kind. In more places than one, we can trace along the declivity of a hill, the ruins of a wall, that was about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, terminating, perhaps, at a lake, or some very abrupt steep place. At the lower extremity of the wall, there is a deep pit, above 12 feet diameter at the mouth, and very much contracted at the bottom. This, the tradition of the country says, was a contrivance used in former times for taking the wild boar. The huntsmen drove him along the wall, till he took refuge at last in the pit, and there was made captive. At the N. end of the harbour called the Small Isles, there are the re-

main

Years.	MARRIAGES.		BIRTHS.
	No.		No.
1789	7		24
1790	7		26
1791	7		18
1792	11		25
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	46		134

The tax upon marriages and baptisms is matter of complaint, especially in such a parish as this, where there is very little circulation of money. It is such a trifle, that it seems beneath the dignity of taxation, and goes contrary to the famous *jus trium liberorum*, to strike at the very roots of national strength and glory. Instead of exacting such an odious tax, a small encouragement for keeping parish records with greater attention, might turn out of much greater advantage to the state.

mains of a considerable encampment. On the side toward the shore, there is a triple line of defence, with deep ditches: from the centre of the work, the earth was scooped out, to a considerable depth, in the form of 3 ellipses placed longitudinally, and thrown up in large mounds on the right and left. On the side toward the hills, there were regular bastions formed all along; and at the E. end, on a line with the centre, is to be seen a pretty large mount, which seems to have been a place of arms. The famous Gulf of Breacan lies between Jura and Scarba. The sound between these two islands is narrow, and forming a communication between the Atlantic and the internal sea on the coast of Argyll; the rapidity and violence of the tides are tremendous. The gulf is most awful with the flowing tide; in stormy weather, with that tide, it exhibits an aspect, in which a great deal of the terrible is blended. Vast openings are formed, in which one would think the bottom might be seen; immense bodies of water tumble headlong, as over a precipice, then rebounding from the abyss, meet the torrents from above; they dash together with inconceivable impetuosity, rise foaming to a prodigious height above the surface: the noise of their conflict is heard through the surrounding islands. This gulf is an object of as great terror to the modern, as Sylla and Charybdis were to the ancient mariners. It is industriously avoided by all who navigate these sounds: there are instances, however, of vessels being drawn into it. Large stout vessels make their way through it in its greatest rage, but to small craft it proves immediate destruction.

It will be proper, in this place, to give a short account of the islands at the N. end of Jura. Scarba is very rugged, and mountainous; it is about 3 miles long, and nearly as many broad. Lunga is not so mountainous, and is about 2 miles long, and half a mile broad. Balnahuigh is about a mile in circum-

circumference, and is all a slate quarry. This quarry has been worked for many years back, and found to yield very good slate. There are generally about 30 men employed in it, who work by the piece, or at so much the thousand of slate.

## ISLAND OF SCARBA.

## ISLAND OF LUNGA.

*Population.*

Farms, - - - 2	Farm, - - - 1
Families, - - - 14	Families, - - - 6
Souls, - - - 50	Souls, - - - 29
Males, - - - 27	Males, - - - 13
Females, - - - 23	Females, - - - 16
Widowers, - - - 0	Widowers, - - - 0
Widows, - - - 3	Widows, - - - 0

## ISLAND OF BALNAHUAIGH.

*Population.*

Families, - - - 28	Females, - - - 68
Souls, - - - 132	Widowers, - - - 0
Males, - - - 64	Widows, - - - 4

Having finished our account of Jura, and its appendage of islands at the N. end, forming the eastern division of this immense parish, we proceed to give a short account of the western division. The islands of Colonsay and Oronsay form this division, and from their contiguity, the sound between them being dry at low water, may be considered as one island.

*Name.*—Colonsay and Oronsay, derive their names from two saints, Colon and Oron. Oron had his cell in Colonsay, in the farm in which the present proprietor's house stands,

but though his cell was in Colonsay, he seems to have been revered in Oronsay, which is so called after his name. Colon, who seems to have had no cell in either of the islands, was lucky enough to have his memory preserved, by giving his name to Colonsay.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—This western division of the parish, being considered as one island, has Mull on the N., is washed by the Atlantic on the W., and stretches across the sound of Ilay on the E.; from which circumstance, it is called descriptively, Eilean Tarsuing, or the Cross-lying Island. Ireland is the next land to it on the S. It is a flat island, when compared with the towering peaks of Mull and Jura in its neighbourhood. The surface, however, is very unequal; there is a considerable number of rugged hills, covered over with heath. This division of the parish has been surveyed, and found to measure about 8000 acres, of which about 3000 are said to be arable.

*Air, Climate, Soil, &c.*—The temperature of the air, and the climate, are nearly the same as in Jura. The inhabitants are robust and healthy; they live in the same simple manner with their brethren in Jura, and have neither lawyer nor surgeon in the island. The soil is generally light; along the shores it is sandy, but more fertile, and not so stony as that of Jura. Barley and potatoes are more productive crops here than oats. Artificial grasses have been tried, and are found to answer. The sea-weed, of which there is great abundance for kelp and manure, has been tried with success upon meadow ground. When the surface is quite covered with it in winter, a dissolution and incorporation with the soil takes place, the natural clover and finer grasses are encouraged to shoot up, and a most luxuriant crop follows. The pasture

on the low grounds, especially in the S. end of the island, is uncommonly rich.

*Quadrupeds, Birds, &c.*—The system of converting arable into pasture, is making rapid progress in Colonsay. The best part of the island is under black cattle; these are in great request among the graziers, and thought to be a very fine breed. The breed of horses is small, and hardy, like that in Jura. The art of abridging labour, and keeping a few good cattle, has not as yet established itself in this distant corner. Those innocent animals, the sheep, are totally banished, although there are no quickset hedges; and nature seems to have destined the heath-covered hills for their use. There are great numbers of rabbits in the island; but no hare, no partridge, and very few grouse.

*Population.*

Farms	{	In tillage, - 7	}	Total, - 15
		In pasture, - 8		
Families,	-	- 134	Females,	- - - 366
Souls,	-	- 718	Widowers,	- - - 6
Males,	-	- 352	Widows,	- - - 12

There are above 40 souls, at an average, in each of the farms; but some of these being very small, not having above 3 or 4 families, the number of souls in the best inhabited farms is very great. The average number of souls to a farm in Jura is 38. A few emigrated from Colonsay to America, summer 1792; but in summer 1791, a considerable proportion of the inhabitants crossed the Atlantic. Those who remain, give out that they are waiting only good accounts from their relations, and a proper opportunity of being transported to

the other hemisphere. Pity it is that such numbers should bid farewell to their native country, when there is so great a demand for useful citizens; and their situation might be rendered more comfortable at home \*,

*Antiquities, &c.*—The remains of several Romish chapels are to be seen in Colonsay. There was a monastery of Cistercians in this island. Their abbey stood in Colonsay, and its priory in Oronsay. The remains of the abbey were, with Gothic barbarity, torn asunder not many years ago, and the stones put into a new building. The walls of the priory are still standing, and next to Icolmkill, is one of the finest religious monuments of antiquity in the Hebrides. No metals of any kind, so far as I could learn, have been discovered in Colonsay. There are great quantities of sea-coral on the shores, and it proves a very good manure.

#### PARISH OF JURA AND COLONSAY.

This parish belongs to 6 heritors, of whom only 2 reside, The Duke of Argyll is patron.

#### Rental.

Valued rent, -	L. 286 18 5	}
Real rent, -	1656 3 9	

Sterling.

*Church, Manse, Poor, Schools, &c.*—The church and manse are in Jura. The church has stood for 12 years at least, has no

\* The registers of marriages and baptisms have been kept so negligently in Colonsay, that, however defective this account may be without extracts from them, they cannot be admitted. The assistant preacher resides in Colonsay, but there is no proper house built for his accommodation; and there is no church to shelter the people from the inclemency of the weather.

no place for a bell, and was never seated. The manse was built about 18 years ago; till then there was no manse in the parish. New office-houses were built; and the manse was repaired about 4 years ago; but so insufficiently, that it needs new repairs. The stipend is 2000 merks; out of which the minister pays, in terms of the decree of augmentation, 800 merks to his assistant in Colonsay. The manse and glebe may be worth about 10l. The allowance for communion elements is 2l. 10s. This sum is exceedingly small, and not at all adequate to the purpose. It is a peculiar hardship to the minister of Jura to be tied down to pay such a large proportion out of his benefice to an assistant-preacher, while he must, at the same time, incur the expense and danger of crossing broad perilous ferries to marry and baptize in the other islands. It is believed that there can be very few instances produced in Scotland, where the minister is not allowed to stipulate with his assistant, but obliged to take his chance of payments himself, and regularly pay his assistant a sum equal to 2-5ths of his stipend.—There are no funds for the poor except the weekly collections, and the casualties from fines and marriage-money. These different items may amount to 10l. a-year. The poor in this parish are not much in the habits of going about and begging; they are generally assisted by their relations, and very few of them have their sole dependence on the parish box.—There are 3 schools; a parish school, and 2 charity schools. The parish school is in Jura; the salary is 7l. One of the charity schools is in Colonsay, and the other in Jura. The salary of each of these is 15l. These schools are of prodigious service towards enlightening the understanding, and improving the heart of a generation, that otherwise would be neglected. So many instances can be produced from the history of mankind, and from the noble exertions of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge,

ledge, to prove that industry, probity, and every virtue, grow and flourish, not in a state of savage ignorance, but of civilization, of light, and of religion, that every encouragement ought to be given to this excellent institution. It can be shown in the clearest manner, that the landlords in the Highlands and islands, ought not only to be punctual in fulfilling the easy requisitions of the Society; but that it is their interest, should the charity schools be withdrawn, to educate the youth at their own expense \*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The language universally spoken in the parish is Gaelic. Very few of the old people understand English. But from the laudable endeavours of the schoolmasters to teach their scholars the vocabulary, and use of that language, and from a general opinion gaining ground, that it will be of great service in life, it is hoped that the rising generation will make considerable progress in acquiring the English language. The inhabitants do not feel that strong desire of bettering their circumstances, that would stimulate them to exertion and enterprize. Instead of trying the effects of industry at home, they foster the notion of getting at once into a state of ease and opulence, with their relations beyond the Atlantic.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Among the disadvantages of this parish, are its remote situation, the breadth and difficulty

\* *Price of labour.*—A male servant employed in the business of farming, gets for the half year 2 l.; a female servant employed in the same business, gets for the half year 1 l.; a day labourer is paid 6 d. and his victuals; a tailor 6 d.; a shoemaker 6 d.; a boat-carpenter 1 s. a day and victuals. The price of labour, though considerably higher than it was some years ago, is still apparently low; but the labour is in proportion. Industry and the arts, have made such slow progress, that the expense of labour is full higher than in the low country.

culty of its færies to the main shore. Had the inhabitants easier access to see the industry, and mode of living in the interior parts of the country, they would probably follow the example of their more enlightened neighbours. Under this disadvantage, the landed gentlemen ought to bestow double diligence in opening the minds of the people ; turning their attention to the common branches of education ; introducing among them a spirit of industry and improvements. The island of Jura labours under a peculiar disadvantage from the great number of rapid rivers with which it is intersected. These come tumbling down from the mountains ; and as they are not bridged, render the roads often impassable. There are no less than 6. of them in the space of 4 miles. The fuel used in this parish is peat, which, from the frequent rains in this watery climate, becomes very precarious. Last summer not above half the fuel was got home, and even that in very bad condition. But it is hoped that the legislature will adopt proper measures to take the duty off an article so universally and absolutely necessary as coal.

The advantages of this parish are its nearness to the lochs, where herring are caught ; the great quantities of sea-weed every where on the shores, both for the purposes of kelp and of manure. The sea-coral of Colonsay is a valuable article. The slate of Balnahuigh brings considerable returns to the proprietor. The sand for glass manufacture, and the slate in Jura, surely deserve attention. What in this island might be turned to great advantage, is its excellent wool. Were a few spinning machines introduced, and blanketing, and stockings manufactured, the hands that could be spared from agriculture and pasture would be usefully employed, and, instead of being a dead weight on the proprietors, furnish an example of useful industry to their neighbours. The white herring-fishery is an object which might be prosecuted with advantage from

from every corner of the parish. The harbours of Jura, indeed, give it great advantage for large vessels; but through all the islands there are creeks for small fishing boats. Perhaps the best mode of encouraging the young men to embark in this undertaking, would be for the gentlemen to join with them in fitting out a few boats of moderate size for that purpose. Should these boats be successful, they would be the means of circulating money, an article which, from the absence of trade and manufactures, is very scarce among the lower classes. The little sums introduced in this way, would rouse a spirit of adventure, and give new springs to every kind of industry. From such small beginnings the extensive fishery carried on by our busses took its rise.

N U M.

## NUMBER XXVI.

## PARISH OF GIRVAN.

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRES-  
BYTERY OF AYR.)*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES THOMSON.*

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*Name, Geography and Natural History.*

THE origin of the name is unknown. In a decree of lo-  
cality, dated 1666, it is written Griffan, and was pro-  
bably, at that time, so pronounced. The change of Griffan  
into Girvan, is somewhat similar to that of Striveling into  
Stirling. The greatest length of the parish from S. W. to  
N. E. is about 9 English miles; and it varies in breadth from  
2 to 6 miles. About two-thirds of the southermost part of  
the parish is hilly. The hills never rise to a height, which,  
in Scotland, is considered as mountainous. They are, for the  
most part, green; and when they are heathy, the heath is  
short, and generally mixed with grass. Even in what may  
be

be called the lowlands of the parish, situated on the sea-coast, and the banks of the Girvan, though there be a considerable proportion of flat ground, yet the surface presents, in general, a hilly appearance. A great variety is to be found in the soil; but that which is most prevalent, consists of a dry light mould, on a sandy, or gravelly bottom. In the low part of the parish, the air is remarkably dry and mild; and in the light lands, vegetation begins 2 or 3 weeks earlier than in the country in general. In the high grounds, the air being much colder, and more moist, vegetation of every kind is much more backward. It is generally thought there is abundance of coal in the low part of the parish; but no attempts to discover it have been yet made. The inhabitants are plentifully supplied from the coal-works in the parish of Dailly. There is a great quantity of lime-stone in the high part of the parish: but owing to its distance from coal, the want of roads, or the unfitness of the neighbouring grounds for agriculture, it has hitherto been but little used. The lowlands are well supplied from an extensive lime-work in the neighbourhood. Little or no freestone has, as yet, been discovered in the parish. Pudding-stone, and a kind of rotten rock, abound almost every where. In some places the grey and blue whin-stone is found. In one spot a small quantity of gypsum, or plaster-stone; and, in another, a considerable bed of shell-marl have been discovered. The houses are all built of whin-stone, gathered partly from the land, but chiefly from the sea-beach.

The sea-coast extends upwards of 8 miles along the W. side of this parish. Above a third part of the shore is bold and rocky; and, when flat, the beach is very generally covered with large whin-stones. In some parts a considerable quantity of sea-weed is occasionally left by the tide; and is used in manuring the neighbouring lands. A little kelp is made

once

once in 3 years. A quantity of salmon is annually caught at the mouth of the Girvan \*.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1193. Of the ancient state of population in the parish, no certain information can be obtained. No regular register of deaths and marriages was kept prior to August 1783, when the tax on registers was imposed. For about 5 years after that period, this register was accurately kept †. A register of births has been preserved since the latter end of the year 1733. From an attention to this, so far as it goes, some probable conjecture concerning the state of population at different periods may be formed: and a comparative view of the former and present situation of the parish in this respect may be taken. For this purpose, there is annexed a table of births for 10 years succeeding December 1733; and another for 10 years prior to January 1791: to which is added a table of deaths and marriages for 5 years succeeding December 1783.

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U u

Years.

\* They are most in season in, the month of June. When sold on the spot, they bring from 2 d. to 3 d. the lb. English. But the greater part is carried by land to Kilmarnock or Glasgow. It is believed that abundance of cod, ling, haddock, &c. is also to be found off this coast; but the inhabitants of this parish have never much availed themselves of their advantage in this respect.

† As soon as it was generally known that the act imposing a tax on registers, did not oblige any person to keep a register; and that the only penalty for neglecting to pay the tax, was the non-entry of the name in the register: the consequence in this parish has been, that the register of deaths has, for some time, been totally given up, and those of births and marriages are not so accurate as they should be.

## Statistical Account

YEARS.	BIRTHS.			YEARS.	BIRTHS.		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.		Males.	Fem.	Total.
1734	21	16	37	1781	26	28	54
1735	9	18	27	1782	24	23	47
1736	16	12	28	1783	16	23	39
1737	14	12	26	1784	24	28	52
1738	17	16	33	1785	26	36	62
1739	14	19	33	1786	31	20	51
1740	16	17	33	1787	31	35	66
1741	19	13	32	1788	29	26	55
1742	9	13	22	1789	25	35	60
1743	23	14	37	1790	33	27	60
Totals,	158	150	308	Totals,	265	281	546
Average,	15.8	15.	30.8	Average,	26.5	28.1	54.6

YEARS.	DEATHS.			YEARS.	MARRIAGES.		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.		Males.	Fem.	Total.
1784	9	17	26	1784			11
1785	18	15	33	1785			9
1786	11	18	29	1786			8
1787	12	10	22	1787			13
* 1788	30	30	60	1788			13
Totals,	80	90	170	Totals,			54
Average,	16	18	34	Average,	10 $\frac{1}{3}$	+	

From

\* A great number of children died this year of the small-pox. All of them had the disease in the natural way. There is still, in this parish, a considerable prejudice against inoculation.

† From the foregoing tables, it appears, that the annual average of births for 10 years, preceding January 1744, was 30.8. This, if multiplied by 26, gives 800, as the average number of inhabitants during that period. If multiplied by 28, the number must be stated at 862; and, if by 29, at 893. From the register of births, it is found, that the annual average for 5 years, preceding 1756, was 40. This, when multiplied by 26, gives only 1040, as the number about the period of Dr. Webster's reports: but, when multiplied by 28, the number at that period is brought to 1120. The annual average of births, for 5 years prior to 1791, was 58 2-5ths. It is necessary this should be multiplied by 29, before the population can, in this way, be brought nearly to correspond with what it was in 1791.

From an accurate list taken in the year 1791, it appears, that the total number of souls was then 1725 :—Of which there were,

Males, - - - 849	Unmarried above 20, 312
Females, - - - 876	In the town of Girvan, 1018
Under 20 years of age, 701	In the country, - 713
Above 20 years of age, 1024	Born out of Scotland,
Married and widows, 713	chiefly in Ireland, 63
Unmarried, , + 1013	

According to their different occupations, the inhabitants may be distributed as follows :

Handicraftsmen, including 33 apprentices, 203	Day labourers, - - 49
Servants, , - 153	Surgeons and apothecaries, - - - 3
Seamen, , - 22	Students at the University, - - - 2
Shopkeepers, , - 9	Minister of the Establishment, - - 1
Licensed inn and tavern keepers, , - 8	Preacher of ditto, - 1
Farmers, , - - 78	

From the above statements concerning the population of the parish of Girvan, it appears, that for upwards of half a century it has been gradually increasing : that it is now double of what it probably was 50 or 60 years ago. Though it be probable that the number of inhabitants in the country part of the parish, especially in the Lowlands, may be somewhat greater than it formerly was ; yet, without doubt, by far the greatest part of the increased population is owing to the extension of the town of Girvan. 40 or 50 years ago, this town was very inconsiderable. According to the best accounts, it

consisted of about 24 houses only; and probably contained not many more than 100 souls. It now contains upwards of 1000. For this great increase various causes may be assigned. About 30 years ago, a considerable herring fishing took place at the mouth of the river very near the town. This fishing continued for 2 or 3 years. By the concourse of people it drew together, and by the wealth it produced, a sudden and considerable extension of the town was occasioned. The throwing of a number of small farms together, which, at one period, was frequently practised in this country, with the almost total exclusion of cottagers from the farms, obliged a number of families to take up their residence in the towns and villages. The practice of smuggling, too, which, for a number of years, was carried on to a considerable extent on this coast, contributed, in no small degree, to the increase of the town of Girvan.

*Productions, &c.*—The number of trees is very small. There is scarcely any natural wood better than brush-wood. A few trees have been planted in the low part of the parish, and in sheltered situations have grown tolerably well. It is believed, that on many parts of the high grounds, trees might be reared with success and advantage. All the low part of the parish is capable of bearing grain; and, with the exception of a few enclosures near the shore, has been chiefly employed for that purpose. Considerable advances have been made, within these 30 years, in the improvement of agriculture. The low lands have been almost wholly enclosed. By the proper use of lime, marl, and sea-weed, together with a more regular rotation of crops, the produce, both in quantity and quality, has been, to a great degree increased. Oats, barley, bear, pease, beans, and potatoes, are the only kinds of crops commonly raised. A small quantity of wheat and rye is occasionally

sionally sown ; but the former is thought an uncertain crop, and the latter is found profitable only when the soil is extremely light and sandy. On one farm, several acres of turnips are annually raised with good success. The kind of plough most commonly used, is one with an English mould-board, and a Scotch soc. Even in the hilly part of the parish, they have begun to cultivate such spots of land as are capable of it. For the most part, lime is used as their manure. In some places the surface is pared and burnt, and the ground manured with the ashes. In general, however, the disadvantages of the climate, together with the want of shelter and enclosures, render the crops, in this part of the parish, both scanty and precarious. The high grounds are, therefore, chiefly employed in the pasture of cattle and sheep. The greater part of them is indeed capable of being used in no other way. There are about 1700 head of cattle in the parish. Though, occasionally, there may be single instances of their rising to a great size \*, yet the cattle, in general, are rather small. In some parts of the parish they are completely fatted ; but the bulk of them are sold for the purpose of being driven to England. In the low pasture grounds, the grass is remarkably rich. A single acre is sometimes more than sufficient to fatten an ox or cow of moderate size. There are about 214 scores of sheep. Except a very few of the mixed breed between Scotch and English, they are all of the small black-faced kind common in this country. Attention is paid by almost all the farmers to the improvement of the kind they already possess ; but no attempts have been yet made to introduce a different breed.

The property of this parish is very unequally divided among

\* An ox bred by Mr. Kennedy of Dunure, on his farm in this parish, was killed when 6 years old ; the beef and tallow of which, together, weighed 6*st* stone 8 pound, reckoning 8*lb* English to the stone.

mong 10 different heritors. One only of them resides. Mr Hamilton of Bargeny, is proprietor of the town of Girvan and of by far the greatest part of the country parish. There is a spot of ground among the hills, supposed to be above 30 acres in extent, which may be considered as a kind of common. It has never, in the memory of man, been claimed or possessed by any individual; but is pastured in common by the tenants of those proprietors who have land in its immediate neighbourhood. In consequence of the improvements in agriculture, the advance in the price of cattle and sheep, and the increase of the town of Girvan, the rent of land in this parish has, within these 40 years, been very considerably advanced. At present (1791) the rents of the whole may be stated at about 3200l., and, when some old leases are out, they will amount to a good deal more. Its valued rent is 4621 l. 4s. 10d. Scots. With the exception of a few, whose leases are of an old date, the tenants pay their whole rent in money. In some instances, they are bound to lead coals to their landlords, or to pay a certain sum for this purpose.

*Antiquities.*—There are, in this parish, 5 of those small round enclosures on the tops of rising grounds, which are commonly called camps. Two of them are very near the sea-side, and none of them more than 2 miles from the coast. One of these is remarkable for having 2 ditches, the 1 parallel to the other, and each surrounding the hill on the top of which it is situated \*.

#### *Ecclesiastical*

\* A number of cairns were formerly to be seen in the parish; several of them are now scarcely distinguishable, the stones being almost wholly removed. In one among the hills, which, about 7 years ago, was laid open, there was found a vessel somewhat like an urn, open at top, made of earthen ware, unglazed, and rudely ornamented. It will hold about two English pints, and, when found, contained a small quantity of dust or ashes. It was enclosed in a kind of coffin, consisting of broad thin stones laid loosely together.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, Schools, Poor.—* The inhabitants of this parish belong almost wholly to the Church of Scotland. There are not more than 20 Separately 2 Roman Catholics. The King is patron. By an Act of Parliament, given in the year 1666, the minister's stipend is at 57 bolls 12*½* pecks of meal, paid at the rate of one and an half the boll; 31 bolls 8 pecks of bear; 12 pecks of oats; with 369*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* Scots, of money as also a manse and glebe, which may be valued at 15*l.*—There is one established schoolmaster, who resides in the town of Girvan. He has, at an average, about 50 scholars. Of these, 30 are taught English, at the rate of a quarter; 16 are taught writing and arithmetic, at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.*; and 4 are taught Latin at 3*s.* These wages are 100*l.* Scots of salary, with his emoluments as seffion and precentor, render his place worth about 30*l.* a-year. A number of private schools are also occasionally kept, in the town and the distant parts of the parish.—The funds of this parish are wholly under the management of the kirk-session. They arise from the interest of 165*l.* or from voluntary contributions, and from penalties imposed on those who subject themselves to the discipline of the church. From the accounts for 5 years preceding 1791, it appears, that the sum of 41*l.* Sterling has, on an average, been annually received; that during the same period, the sum of 38*l.* has, at an average, been annually distributed; and that in these years, the average number

In the town of Girvan, there is a whin-stone of a dark sea-green colour, oval-shaped, its circumference measuring 2 feet 4 inches, by 2 feet long. Concerning this stone, tradition says, that in former times, when a man had laid his foot on it, he could not be attached for debt. From time immemorial, it has lain behind some houses, which, with their yards, formerly belonged to the church.

those who were regularly on the poor's roll, amounted to 36, besides a number of others to whom occasional assistance was given. It is to be observed, that out of the above sum, received chiefly on account of the poor, between 2 l. and 3 l. are annually given to the presbytery and session-clerks, the precentor, and kirk-officer.

*Town of Girvan.*—The town of Girvan is situated at the mouth of the river bearing that name. It is a post town, and lies on the great road between Ayr and Port-Patrick \*. The town of Girvan possesses many advantages for trade and manufactures. In the neighbourhood of a plentiful corn country, with abundance of coal within 2 or 3 miles, and probably much nearer, it enjoys in sufficient quantity, all the necessaries of life. Standing very near the sea, and built on a dry sandy soil ; its situation is remarkably healthy. Its harbour, far from being now a bad one, is capable of much improvement. In its present natural state, the entrance into the harbour is, at high water, from 9 to 11 feet deep ; and were a key to be built, which, it is said, might be done for 2000l. or 3000l., it would be rendered considerably deeper.

The

\* This town is a burgh of barony. A charter of erection was originally granted to Thomas Boyd, Esq. proprietor of the lands of Ballochtoil, on which the town is chiefly built. This charter was afterward renewed by King William to Sir Archibald Muir of Thornton, in the year 1696. The powers and privileges granted by it to the proprietor of Ballochtoil, were regularly carried down, in all the subsequent charters and investitures, from the Crown. These powers were, however, never used ; till, in consequence of the great increase of the town, Mr. Hamilton of Bargeny, the present proprietor, thought of exercising them. Accordingly, in the year 1785, the town of Girvan did, by his direction, assume the form of a burgh of barony. It is governed by 2 bailies, and a council of 10. The bailies are annually chosen by the council, and the vacancies of the council are filled up by themselves. But the superior has a negative upon both elections. The town, by its charter, enjoys all the liberties and privileges belonging to other burghs of the same kind.

The farge never rises here to any very great height ; and so happily is the harbour situated, that vessels can get out to sea with a wind from almost any quarter, if it does not blow very hard. With such advantages, any kind of trade, and especially the coal-trade, might, with good prospect of success, be carried on. Hitherto, however, little or nothing has been done in this way. There is at present, no more than one vessel above 20 tons burthen, belonging to this place, or trading to it. The rest are all small, open, or half-decked boats, used for running salt from Ireland, or freighting goods from one part of the coast to another. Nor, till very lately, was there any thing deserving the name of manufacture to be found in Girvan. The weaving of cotton-cloth has of late been introduced by the manufacturers of Glasgow. Upwards of 100 looms are now employed, and the busines is extending every day. That a situation so advantageous for trade or manufactures should have been so long neglected, may appear surprising ; but may perhaps be in some degree accounted for by observing, that Girvan is placed at a considerable distance from any great trading or manufacturing town ; that no person bred to business, and at the same time possessing a good capital, ever happened to settle here, or in the neighbourhood ; and that habits of regular industry were probably prevented or destroyed by the practice of smuggling, to which the inhabitants were, for a long time, so much addicted. There is reason, however, to hope, that if trade and manufactures continue to flourish in the country, in general, Girvan will, in a short time, acquire that share in them, to which, from its natural advantages, it appears to be entitled.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF NORTHMAREN,

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF SHETLAND.)

*By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM JACK.*

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NORTHMAREN is one of the most northerly parishes, subject to Britain, commodiously situated for navigation and commerce, abounding in excellent harbours, from whence there is a safe and ready passage to the different ports of Britain, to the Greenland seas, to the Baltic, Norway, and Spain, and having around its coast vast shoals of fish of various kinds : Ling, cod, tusk and herrings, which form valuable articles of commerce, besides variety of smaller fishes, which supply the inhabitants with a great part of their subsistence. Also many large beaches, and every requisite to render it commodious for carrying on an extensive fishing.

Name,

*Name, Extent, Situation and Climate.*—Nòrðmáven lies in the lordship and presbytery of Shetland, situated between  $60^{\circ} 38'$  and  $60^{\circ} 57'$  N. latitude, and in W. longitude from London  $2^{\circ}$ : In the eleventh north climate, (according to Ricciolus; who has regard to the refraction), having the sun on the shortest day, 4 hours and 3 quarters above the horizon; though Smollet; in his modern history, describing the Hebrides, writes, “that in the most northerly isles; the sun; at the summer solstice, is not above an hour under the horizon, at midnight; and not longer above at mid-day in the depth of winter.” At present the variation of the compass is 2½ points W.: On the west side of the parish, it is high water at 9 o’clock on the full and change of the moon; but on the east side it is an hour and a quarter later. The names of most places in this parish are from the Norwegian language, and are expressive of their situation. Some fancy Northmaven to signify North Main; or north part of the Mainland; others, that as the neck of land which is the entrance to the parish, is called Mavén; and the whole parish lying to the N. of it; that it has thence its name: This parish is a peninsula, and the isthmus which connects it to the Mainland or parish of Delting; is from high water-mark on one side, to the same on the other; near 100 yards, and so low; that with high spring-tides; the water nearly covers it: On each side of the isthmus; the hills rise almost perpendicular: The extent of this parish is 16 computed miles from S. to N., and from E. to W. 8 miles; but of measured miles it would be many more: Its shores are very uneven, being intersected with numerous inlets of the sea, called here *Voes*. It is washed on the east side by Yell sound and Sulem voe, which separates it from the island of Yell and parish of Delting; on the N. and W. sides by the Atlantic Ocean; and on the S. by St. Magnus Bay; which divides it from part of Delting and Aithring parishes; and from

the island of Pape and Sannes parish. The cultivated lands or farms, called here Rooms, are small scattered spots, lying near the sea shore, and round the bays. They bear a very small proportion to the hills and pasture ground. The figure of the parish approaches nearest to a triangle, but with many irregularities. The climate is mild, equal, and temperate; the air pure and healthy in all seasons. The winters are milder than perhaps in any other part of Britain, being tempered by the circumambient ocean. The heats of summer are less, for the same reason. High and sudden winds are frequent. The aurora borealis, in the winter, often covers the whole hemisphere, making a very brilliant appearance, and of different colours: It generally has a strong tremulous motion from end to end. The highest hill in this country, is on the W. side of this parish, called Rona's hill, and extends from the middle to the N. end of the parish; being 8 miles long, 4 broad, and near  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a mile perpendicular height. It was found by geometrical mensuration to be 3944 feet above the level of the sea. From the summit of the hill, is exhibited an extensive, noble, and pleasing prospect, 50 miles at least, in every direction, having the ocean for an horizon. The numerous islands scattered beneath, and curiously intersected by the sea, and often a distant view of vessels which frequent these coasts in the summer season, afford a prospect infinitely diversified and agreeable. On the highest eminence, there is an house constructed of 4 large stones, and 2 covering the top for a roof, under which 6 or 7 persons may sit. It is called the Watch House, and was probably used, in ancient times, to give notice of the enemy, or any approaching danger; a pyramidal tower of small stones is erected on the top of it. This hill is a landmark to the fishers all round the country; and generally the first land seen by ships, if they fall

fall to the W. of the country coming from their northern voyages\*.

*Islands, Holms, Rocks.*—This parish is bordered all around with small islands, holms, and rocks, or pillars near the shore. There is only one inhabited island called Lamba, on the E. side, possessed by one family; it has but little corn land, but can graze a few cattle and sheep. At the S. end, and on the W. side, near the entrance into the parish, lies Eagleshey, an excellent island for grazing, and in it, are many rabbits. N. of this lie 2 islands, Nibon and Gunister, and, like the former, graze cattle and sheep. From this, there is a long range of rocks, holms, and islands, to the N. end of the parish. The most remarkable are, a rock rising perpendicular on all sides to a great height above the surface of the sea, and at a few miles distance, has the appearance of a ship with all her sails set. It makes a good direction for vessels coming into Hillswick harbour, keeping to the E. of that rock, and half way from the shore. Near to this, are 2 very high pillars, on which the larger kind of cormorants nestle; and what is remarkable, only successively, for the rock that is possessed by them one year, is deserted the next, and returned to again after being a year unpossessed. In this manner have these rocks been occupied time immemorial. Both rocks are inaccessible. These immense pillars, are of the same materials with

\* There are no rivers nor woods in this parish, nor indeed in the whole country; but it abounds in lochs or fresh-water lakes, in which are found small trout. From these lochs, flow rivulets, brooks or burns, which, after great falls of rain, render travelling difficult, having no proper bridges. There are many springs and wells of excellent water, and some mineral springs impregnated with iron, but have never yet been properly investigated, nor used in the cure of any distemper. Apple trees, and some barren shrubs grow in gardens, but no higher than the wall. There are in many mosses, roots of trees found lying horizontally, from which some think, that trees once grew in this country.

with the crags on the shore, which are of a stupendous height, and seem to have been separated by the force of the waves, rather than by volcanoes or any other eruptions. There is an holm, called Dorholm, from a remarkable arch passing through its centre, which is very lofty and spacious, and under which boats fish; and there is an opening from the top, which gives light to those below. Next to this, is the holm and isle of Stenness, which abound with kettiwakes filling every projection and every hole, which can afford them any shelter. The new fledged young, are much esteemed, as delicate food, and taken in great plenty. To the northward of this is a rock, the summit of which, has never been trodden by man, and is called the Maiden Skerrie. In the summer season it is occupied by the largest or black-backed gulls, who nestle on it undisturbed. About 2 miles from this shore, there is a large and high rock called Ocean Sherry; it is a good direction for ships from the N., if wanting an harbour. Under it our fishing boats, with easterly wind, are happy to reach a place, which will give them leave to rest upon their oars. On the N. end of Rona's hill, is the island of Uya, esteemed the most valuable, for feeding cattle or sheep, of any belonging to this parish. The northmost point of the parish is a small peninsula, enclosed by a stone fence, called Fetheland; about 3 miles thence, there are high rocks called Ramnastacks. On the E. side of the parish, going from N. to S. are the holms of Isbister, Stourholm, and the holms of Skea, with Glub island.

*Harbours and Fishing Stations.*—On the S. side of the parish is a spacious bay, called St. Magnus Bay, which leads to the harbour and creek of Hillswick, where there is safe and excellent anchorage, for any number of vessels, or of any burthen; having good moorings from 7 to 20 fathoms water.

Hene

Here is a large and commodious beach for drying fish, with good warehouses, and salt, and fish cellars, and every other necessary accommodation. From this creek, all the fish caught in the parish are loaded for exportation. A little distance from this, is an inlet called Hammersvoe, a secure retreat for ships in the most tempestuous weather. The most westerly point of this parish is Stenness, an excellent station for fishing, with an extensive beach, and a warehouse built for the convenience of the fishing. Here, there are from 40 to 50 boats from this and the neighbouring parishes during the fishing season. A little further N. there is a small bay called Hamnavoe, a safe harbour for small vessels, the entry into it being narrow; and here also is another fishing station for 12 or 15 boats, with suitable conveniences. Still further N. on the S. side of Rona's hill, is a bay called Rona's Voe, running up into the land 6 miles, a large and safe harbour; and here also is a fishing station for 4 or 5 boats. On the N. side of the hill, is a station for 14 boats. It is called Uya. The fish caught here are carried fresh to Fethaland, as there is no beach at this place. The reason of this station being chosen, is its vicinity to the fishing grounds. From this to Sandvoe, a bay runs up 4 miles, which is a very good harbour. From this Voe, 5 boats sail to the same fishing grounds as the boats from Uya. Fetheland, the northmost extremity, is a chief fishing station, frequented by about 60 boats. From this and the parishes of Yell and Delting, is a road only for large boats, and small sloops in summer. A short distance from this, on the E. side, is Burravoe, a tolerable harbour; but in the middle of the entrance, there is a flat broad rock only seen at low water, which makes it a pilot's fare way. Here also is an excellent beach and storehouse. Of late, the proprietor has built a convenient pier for boats landing their fish, and drained a loch at the back of the beach. He applied for

for making this harbour a creek, that he might get his fish shipped under the inspection of the customhouse officers ; but it not being granted, is obliged to carry his fish to Hillswick, round Rena's hill, the most dangerous navigation on this coast, at much expense and risk. South of this, are Collofirth and Quefirth voes, both good harbours; as also Glus voe. On the S. end, there is a long inlet of 6 miles, called Sulm voe, a fine road for ships, and could keep a great navy. There are several other smaller harbours, but not so safe or so much frequented as those now mentioned.

*Payments, Burthens, &c.—* The cultivated lands in this parish, as well as in all Shetland, are scattered spots, environed either by deep mosses, or by thin bare grounds, whereof the moss has been cut for peats, or by steep hills covered with heath and naked rocks. These spots are called Rooms, which have, at an early period, been divided into merks, but not equally. The value of each merk, being ascertained by the number of pennies of rent it is denominated by. So each merk of land is deemed to contain so many penny lands, from 12 to 4 penny land the merk. Each penny land is uniformly valued at 1½ merk weight of butter; and the money having come in place of the wadmale (being a coarse kind of cloth manufactured in these isles) 1s. and ½s. Scots of rent payable to the proprietor; that quantity of butter being originally held of equal value to this sum of 1½s. Scots; so that lands esteemed as 12 penny lands, paid of land rent yearly, 16 merks of butter, and 16s. Scots, which taken together, was originally equal in value to 32s. Scots. 10 penny, 9 penny, 8 penny, 6 penny, and 4 penny land, paid in the same proportion to the landlords; who, in process of time, laid on their tenants, by way of fine or entry, an annual sum of 8s. Scots, for each merk of land, without re-

garding the penny rents ; and this is called the grassum. Besides the payment of land rent to the proprietors of the lands, the possessors pay a tax called Scatt, which was anciently the revenue of the Kings of Denmark ; and since this country being annexed to the Crown of Scotland, has been paid to the Crown or its grantees. There is another payment exacted by the grantees of the Crown, called ox and sheep money, which is said to have been introduced by the Earls of Orkney, when they lorded it over this country.

In the year 160c, Patrick Earl of Orkney, built the castle of Scalloway; among the exactions made by him for carrying on this building, one was, his compelling the inhabitants to deliver a certain number of oxen and sheep yearly for the use of his table. It is said, that he demanded 24 sheep and 3 oxen from each parish, which oxen and sheep were afterward converted into a yearly money-payment on the lands in each parish. Another payment exacted by the grantees of the Crown, is called the Wattle. In the beginning of the 16th century, when Popery blinded mankind, the priests begged from these islands, money under the name of Wattle, in consideration of the extraordinary benefit which the people were to receive from the liberal distribution of holy water among them. Another payment is the cefs, or land-tax ; and as the lands of these islands pay scatt, or a land-tax peculiar to themselves, it was, after some struggle, that the payment of cefs took place in Shetland. Besides the above payments, the tenants pay corn-tiend : In this parish the one half to Sir Thomas Dundas, the other half to the incumbent, according to use and wont. Besides, to the incumbent is paid cow and sheep tiend, and a composition of 15 lings for every 6 oared boat, and 10 for every 4 oared boat. Further, the tenant pays to the proprietor an hen and cock for every 2 merks land, and 3 days work to the proprietor and as many

to the minister, being maintained during that time. Besides, the tenant engages to fit out, at his own expense, a certain share of a boat to the ling fishing, which is proportioned to the value or number of merks of land. Also, to sell his fish at a certain stipulated or understood price to the landlord, and to make the first offer of all his other products to him, preferable to all others. An annual salary of about 11 l. Sterling to the parochial schoolmaster, concludes the payments and burthens in this parish.

*Agriculture.*—The soil, from our northern and insular situation, rather unfavourable for vegetation, must be considerably barren. The best crop of black oats and bear being the only grain which the soil will nourish, is never sufficient for the inhabitants 9 months in the year; and often when the seasons are unfavourable, not sufficient to maintain them 4 months, though their allowance of bread is by far less than in any other part of Great Britain. Their fishing is the principal, if not the only resource, to enable them to provide the necessities of life, which renders their supply very precarious. To the particular account of the state of agriculture in the neighbouring parish of Delting, very little needs be added, being the same as here. About the year 1750, potatoes began to be planted, and have proved of great advantage to the inhabitants, being an early food in harvest, when bread is almost not to be had, and very comfortable with their small fish, of which, then, they have usually plenty. That great improvements might be made in their mode of farming, is not to be doubted; but it may be a question if the country is capable of yielding an increase sufficient for their support.

It seems better adapted for pasture, and carrying on the fishing. The predilection and spirit of the people for the latter, has rendered them quite careless as to the former. Could they

they be persuaded to keep shepherds, and the shepherd to be paid out of the flock, it is not to say what an increase might be in this parish in a few years; as the pastures are very extensive, and yet the sheep fewer in number than in other parishes. In the winter, the sheep and horse feed on sea-weed, and endure all the rigour of the season without any shelter.

The number of ploughs has been decreasing in this parish for many years. At this time there are about 26 ploughs; the ground is mostly digged, or turned up with spades. The oats are sown, and the kail and potatoes planted in the month of April, and from the beginning to the middle of May the bear-seed is sown. The harvest is between the first of September and first of November. The rentalled lands of this parish amount to 1145 mark land; besides, there are about 100 outsets, or new improvements, commonly estimated at 3 marks each, and pay the landlord accordingly; but are exempted from paying scatt, cefs, or corn-tiend. Including these improvements with the rentalled lands, all will bear but a small proportion to the hills and pasture grounds. Every room or rooms contiguous to each other, are enclosed with turf-fences. There is not one farm or house at present unpossessed or uninhabited.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1009. The population here has been increasing since the year 1760, owing to the splitting of farms and breaking out new grounds. This was promoted by the landlords for increasing the number of fishers. In the year 1768, the present minister of the parish, upon his first visitation of families, took a list of all examinable persons, which was obtained with difficulty, owing to the prejudices of the people. He found then 1109 examinable persons. In the following visitations the number was increasing, and the

people giving up their prejudices to taking such an account; He, in the year 1777, took an exact list of persons of every age, when they amounted to 1594. They were found to increase gradually to the year 1784, when they amounted to 1657, and in the year 1792, to the number of 1786, of which an account follows:

Inhabited houses,	-	290	Females,	-	-	990
Souls, -	-	1786	Widowers,	-	-	10
Males, -	-	796	Widows,	-	-	34*

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor.*—Sir Thomas Dundas is patron of this parish. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church of Scotland. There have been two churches in this parish, each of them near to the middle of it, one on the E. and the other on the W. side. The former has been in ruins since the year 1761. The latter, at Hillswick, is now the only place of public worship. The present incumbent, because of the vast distance that many are from Hillswick, preaches 3 or 4 times a-year at the north, and most distant end of the parish, and at Ollaberry, the former place of worship. The church of Hillswick was rebuilt in the year 1733, and repaired in the year 1764. The manse is at Hillswick, was built in 1768, but not being completed, it had repairs in

1790;

\* No registers of marriages, baptisms, or deaths, could be discovered by the present incumbent upon his admission: Since, the marriage register has been kept very distinctly, and from it, on an average, there appear to have been 10 marriages yearly. The baptism register cannot be regularly kept, on account of the many private baptisms, in which they must be indulged, because of their great distance from their place of worship. But by the best account that can be taken, they amount on an average to 50. A register of deaths has not yet been attempted to be kept, because of the many burial places in the parish, and the many accidents by sea.

1790; so that at present it is pretty commodious. The value of the stipend cannot be ascertained, being paid in kind, which renders it very variable. The glebe is situated in 4 different places, each 3 miles distant from the manse, and 3 merks land, which are contiguous thereto.—A legal school was established here in 1772, with a salary of 197 merks 8s. 9 pennies Scots, raised by 2s. 3d. Scots on the merk land. The usual number of boys at this school was from 20 to 25. At present they are only 14. There has not yet been a charity school in this parish. It is not to be doubted, if a proper representation was laid before the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, that they would readily grant one for such an extensive parish as this.

There are commonly from 14 to 18 poor on the parochial roll, each of whom are stationed on a certain number of families in a corner, who maintain them as many days and nights as they have merks of land. They will make 3 or 4 rotations yearly in that corner. The weekly collections may amount yearly to 5 l. Sterling; and the collections on sacramental occasions to 10 l. Sterling. From these collections, the above stated poor, receive from 5 s. to 10 s. for clothes, and from 8 s. to 12 s for expense of burial \*.

### *Employment*

\* These poor are such as are arrived at extreme old age. Besides the above, there are commonly on the list one or two infants, who have lost their parents, recommended by the kirk-session to some discreet family, who receive 20 or 30 s. yearly until they arrive at 10 years of age. After which time, they are treated and considered as a child of the family. There is a sum of 25 l. Sterling mortified by the Rev. Mr. James Buchan, formerly minister of this parish, the interest whereof is given to such, as, though now reduced to low circumstances, were formerly in a more affluent state than the ordinary poor. Besides, there are several families reduced by misfortunes, who receive from 5 s. to 20 s. Sterling, though not on the poor's roll. In the year 1792, 24 families received 10 s. each from the poor's funds. When any extraordinary misfortunes happen a family

. *Employment of the Inhabitants.*—The women look after domestic concerns, bring up their children, cook the victuals, look after the cattle, spin, and knit stockings; they also assist, and are no less laborious than the men in manuring and labouring the grounds, reaping the harvest, and manufacturing their crop. The children are taught very early to be helpful in the affairs of the house; many of the young women are employed in May and August in cutting sea-weed for kelp. The boys are early employed in fishing. The province of the men is managing their small farms, the fishing, boat building, and cutting their peats, which are their only fuel; besides, they are generally tailor, shoemaker, weaver, &c. to their own family, and many are smith and wright. There are only 3 persons in this parish who make their living by their trade alone; two wrights and one shoemaker.

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mily, or person, the ordinary method for their supply is, to represent their state from the pulpit, with suitable exhortations, and appoint a day for a collection to be made for their account. It is common to receive from 2*l.* to 5*l.* Sterling on such occasions. From this account, it is obvious, that in times of general calamity, little more can be done by the kirk-session, or by the inhabitants of this parish. From the year 1782, the crops failed, and a great dearth prevailed among the horned cattle and sheep, so that these islands, during that period, were in very great distress, and many must have perished from want, if they had not received seasonable and large supplies. In the year 1783, they shared in the supply given by Government to the northern counties of Scotland. In 1784, a considerable supply was sent them by a vote of the House of Commons. In the following years, Thomas Parker, Esq. of Hull, and Alexander Alison, Esq. Deputy Cashier of Excise at Edinburgh, set on foot subscriptions for their relief: The former collected 308*l.* 16*s.*; and the latter 1049*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* both which sums Mr. Alison sent, from time to time, to Shetland, in meal for food, and grain for seed. On the night of the 10th June 1791, many of our fishing-boats were lost at sea, which left many families in the greatest distress. An early account of this reaching Edinburgh collections were made for them there, and the poor widows and orphans have, at three different times, received of this liberality, transmitted by Messrs. Robert Strong and Son merchants Leith.

In this northern climate, more attention, care, and toil, must be given to procure a bare subsistence, than a comfortable one; with some superfluities, where the earth yields a more certain and plentiful increase. When sloth or mismanagement prevail in the managers of a family, want and famine for a great part of the year must be the consequence. And, alas ! this is often the case, with the most careful and provident, when their crops are blasted, and the small fishing in winter fails.

*Of the Fishing.*—About the end of last, and beginning of this century, the Hollanders resorted to this country to purchase fish of the natives. They paid a gratuity annually for this privilege to the proprietors. In May they arrived with their vessels, and supplied the natives with the necessaries for their families and fishing apparatus. They received the fish fresh, which, after being salted and dried, and having made an agreement with the proprietors for the next year's produce, returned with their cargoes \*. It is usual for every skipper

\* To this day, it is common to point out the Dutchmen's lodges and beaches in the several parts of the parish. About the year 1712, the proprietors of land took the fishing under their management, when the debenture and regulations respecting duties on salt were passed. Then the landlords appointed fishermen, imported salt, and all fishing necessaries, and freighted vessels for exporting their fish, which then, and for several years afterward, were sent to Hamburgh. The landlords receive their fish at a stipulated price. From that period, to the year 1740, the fishing was not distant from the shore above 8 or 10 miles, carried on in four oared boats, with few lines ; so that the quantity then caught was few, compared to the numbers now. But those few were more profitable to the fisher; and, in consequence, they then lived comfortably, and indebted to none. About 1740, the boats increased much in number, which induced them to seek out further to sea, to avoid their lines entangling, when crowded along shore. Finding a new bank, they enlarged their boats, and increased their number of lines, till they gradually arrived to the present state. The proprietors now purchase their fish by weight. The fisher, on an average, has 4d. each ling. But it must be allowed, that boats, lines, and all fishing necessaries, are now double the price they

skipper or master of a boat, to appear ready at the fishing station the first week of June, with their boats properly equipped, and fishing tackling in order. Each boat carries from 100 to 120 lines, of 50 fathoms length; each line having 10 hooks, placed 5 fathoms from each other on a cord 4 foot long. A boat's lines will extend 6000 fathoms, or about 6 miles and an half when laid in the sea. Each boat has also 4 haddock lines fitted; their first work is to obtain proper bait, and this is their employment every evening and morning they are ashore, as they wish always to have fresh bait. Haddocks are most esteemed, of which it will take 6 or 7 score for the lines of one boat. Pillocks are next valued, of which it requires 25 or 30 score; failing of these, halibut, cod, tusk, or ling, are used for bait. They set out to sea, when weather permits, from 10 o'clock A. M. to 2 o'clock P. M. according to the fishing ground they intend to visit, being from 10 to 40 miles distant from the shore. When arrived there, about 6 or 7 o'clock at night, the 1st end of the line is sunk by a stone of 24 pounds weight; then 2 or 4 men pull to seaward: the remainder set out the lines, and fix pieces of bait properly cut, on every hook; and at the distance of every two lines, are stones fixed about 8 pound weight; and, at the other end of the line, a large stone as at the first. There are buoys at each end of the line, made of sheep skin, and 2 mid-buoys, for finding the lines, least they break while hauling. Every line for the buoy, is 120 fathoms and more. The lines being joined together, so as to form a long train, the boat keeps close by the buoy last dropped, for 2 or 3 hours, according to the tide and weather. When they begin to haul

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they were before 1750. In the account of the fishing from the neighbouring parish of Delting, there is an accurate statement of the annual expenses of boats, lines, &c. and the annual returns and balances in favour of sharers in boats, which supersedes any thing being said here on the subject.

or take in their lines, every fish, as brought into the boat, they cut off the heads, and throw them into an apartment by themselves, then take out the guts and entrails. It sometimes happens, that they cannot carry their draught with safety to the shore; in which case, they first throw the heads, *skate*, *halibut*, *tusk*, *cod*, and sometimes *ling*. Boats have taken abore 20 score *lings*; 12 or 14 score, with *cod* and *tusk*, is esteemed a great haul; 5 or 6 score is esteemed a medium. In moderate weather, they commonly reach their landing place, from 11 noon to 4 P. M. They have been known to be out 3 days and 3 nights. All the stores they ever carry with them, is an half anker filled with the drink called *Blanda*, a cake of bread to each man, and a bottle *Geneva*. The fishing ends the 15th August. Old men and boys are employed at the fishing station for curing the fish. The old men cut out the back bone, after which the boys wash the fish in the sea, bring them again to the old men, who salt them in tubs or vats for the purpose, where they lie a competent time soaking in brine. When taken out of these vats, they must be carefully washed with a broom in salt water. They are then laid in heaps for a day or two; and then, at proper intervals, exposed to the sun, till perfectly dried, taking care gradually to increase the piles or *stipes* into which they are built as they harden. In this way, they are kept on the beach for 6, 8, or 10 weeks until cellared or shipped\*.

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\* A committee of Parliament in 1786, declared, that the best means of improving the fisheries, was to encourage the inhabitants living nearest the seat of them to become fishers. What description of men, then, can have a better title than the poor inhabitants of this parish? Who should be more encouraged, or suitably rewarded, than a stout, hardy, and laborious race of men, who have a predilection for the employment of fishing, above all other pursuits, though none attended with more fatigue and danger, or hitherto rewarded so meanly? The fishers complain that they are not permitted to dispose of their fish and produce to the best

Some time after the white fishing is ended, it generally happens that herring crowd into our bays and voes, on the W. side of this parish. Many of our small boats are then employed during the night in catching herrings, and old men and boys in the day time in curing them. The herring commonly leave the coast in November. From the above, it is obvious that there cannot be a more laborious and industrious people, than the lower class in this parish, from March to November, and that every person is actively employed during that time; but, in the winter months, except procuring small fish for their own consumption, and a few lings which are caught occasionally, they are employed to little advantage \*.

#### *Diseases.*

best advantage; that the toil and peril of fishing is imposed upon them, without a prospect of profit. The landlords say, that the tenant pays but half rent for his lands, and every necessary for the fishing provided first by them. But not to enter farther into the cause, although the present practice may have advantages equal to its disadvantages, yet the appearance of a monopoly is a circumstance, which seldom fails to be considered as a grievance. This connexion between proprietors and tenants, has often been the origin of disputes, between proprietors and others, as interlopers, and trafficking with their tenants and fishers. A friendly and benevolent behaviour towards their tenants, is a characteristic that will apply, in general, to proprietors in this country; but their granting no leases, is much against improvements, and keeps the tenants in constant dependence.

\* The bays afford great plenty of shell-fish, such as oysters, cockles, muscles, spouts, &c. These, in time of general scarcity, have often proved a great relief to poor families. It may be observed, also, that sometimes there are vast shoals of small whales. When seen near the shore, all the people around assemble, and with their boats drive them aground. Anno 1741, in the bay of Hills-wick, 360 were forced a-shore, and yielded from 2 to 4 barrels of oil each: in 1768, ten were taken at the same place; and in 1791, above 100 were caught there also. A false refinement, or sense of delicacy, prevents the people from making the smallest use of the flesh of these small whales, although there is every reason to think, from the smallness of the fibres, and appearance of the flesh, that, setting aside prejudices, it would make not indelicate food. In 1741,

by

*Diseases.*—Epidemic diseases prevail but seldom, owing probably to our free air, and our houses being separated from each other. The rheumatism is a very common complaint, both among the poor and rich. There is a species of leprosy that has been more prevalent than at present, and of which we have had several miserable instances in this parish; it seldom affects any but the lower class of people. Its symptoms approach nearer to those of elephantiasis, than any other description. It is supposed to proceed from low living, unwholesome, or ill prepared food, and living nastily. Many poor objects under this disease have been sent to the infirmary of Edinburgh, but they either died there, or returned uncured, and soon perished miserable spectacles of wretchedness. This disease does not seem to be infectious; but in many instances there is reason to suspect an hereditary taint. The sufferers are, however, always set apart, and provided for, and supplied by the parish. When taken early, there are instances of its being cured. Convulsions were once very common in this parish, especially during the time of divine service; but are now quite extinct. The cure is attributed to a rough fellow of a kirk-officer, who tossed a woman in that state, with whom he was often plagued, into a ditch full of water. She was never known to have it afterward; and others dreaded the like treatment. The small pox heretofore proved extremely fatal. Most of the old people in this parish, date their age from such a year before or after the mortal pox, which was in 1700. Inoculation was perfectly ge-

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general

by reason of the extreme scarcity then prevailing, some families were induced privately to make use of their flesh, and all such declared it to be equal to any other beef. It may be objected, that hunger is a good sauce; but in Iceland and Faro, where these whales are caught annually, their flesh is much esteemed. Our coasts are also infested with the large grampus whale, from August to December. Of these, our fishers are afraid, and avoid them as much as possible.

neral in 1791, and extremely successful. The people here have no prejudices against it.

*Dress, Longevity, Stature, &c.*—The gentry dress suitable to their character, and similar to the fashions in Edinburgh. The lower class wear cloth of a coarse quality of their own making. When employed in fishing, they have coverings of barked skins of sheep which they put over their clothes, and large wide boots. On Sabbaths, the use of cloths from Scotland or England, is becoming very frequent among them. The kirk-officer who died in 1791, was aged 95. He calculated, as was usual with old people, from the time of the mortal pox, viz. 1700, and asserted, that then he was able to run a short errand of a mile or two. There are at present living, 3 persons above 90 years old, and 10 from 80 to 86 years of age, some of the latter stout and vigorous; but no report nor record of any being 100 years old. The men are generally robust, strong, and tall. There is one man 6 feet 5 inches. There are 6 men above 6 feet, and many from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet high. The people, in general, are discreet and kindly, remarkably attentive to strangers, and charitable to the needy, even such as are themselves but in narrow circumstances. There is not one instance of a criminal prosecution against any of the inhabitants of this parish.

*Animals and Birds.*—The beef, mutton, and pork, reared in this parish, are juicy and delicious. The horses little, but active and hardy. The fowls reared, are geese, ducks, and hens. No pigeons in dove-cots, but a good many wild flocks of them nestling in caves \*.

#### *Antiquities.*

\* *Migratory birds.*—Swans visit the lochs, or fresh-water lakes in this parish twice

*Antiquities.*—There is a range of watch-houses, similar to that described on Rona's hill, and many remains of houses, or Picts' houses, but none of them of remarkable size, or entire. Their demolition is owing to the time, and stones removed for the constructing of neighbouring buildings. The most entire of this kind is on the Westward-hill, situated on an holm in a loch, from which has been a narrow path laid with stones to the opposite shore; the circular wall can be traced, and some steps of stone have ascended circularly in its interior. The watch-houses are built within sight of the sea, and more within sight of each other. Besides the use they are in giving an alarm in times of danger, a probation of them might be, in times when shoals of seals were far more frequent on this coast than at present; to observe and collect the inhabitants in the vicinity, when a flock of these appeared. They are applied to that purpose to this day in the Tawe islands. There are several stone caverns made by the force of the sea; in some, the seals nestle, and bring forth their young, others shelter to seals and otters.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The average value of the export.

Ling, cod, and tusk, from 65 parish boats,	L. 23
Oil,	-

3.

Carried over, L. 26

wice a-year, but do not nestle here. The kettiwakes, and Thomas' gulls nest in great numbers, and come here in May, and return in August; the latter, a bird which lives on lempots, which it separates from the water with its long red bill, visits us in April, and leaves in October. The native birds are not peculiar to this parish, but common to the country, and must be referred to the accounts given by others.

	Brought over,	L.	2650	0	0
Herrings,	-	-	300	0	0
Beef, hides and tallow,	-	-	350	0	0
Butter,	-	-	150	0	0
Fine and coarse stockings, gloves, and caps,	-	-	300	0	0
Kelp,	-	-	100	0	0
Calf, otter, and seal skins,	-	-	30	0	0
		L.	3880	0	0

In the year 1732, boats went out from Hillswick upon the appearance of wreck, and different quantities of wood in St. Magnus's Bay, and found the captain of the ship and cabin-boy on a float of the wood. The captain reported that the vessel split at sea two days before. The greatest part of the cargo was saved and brought to Hillswick, and sold for the behoof of the captain\*.

After

\* In 1741, a large Dutch vessel, men and cargo, were lost off Uya, the N. part of the parish, and most dangerous part of our coast. Her guns are yet to be seen. In 1745, another large vessel of the same nation was wrecked on the same place. The men, and great part of the cargo saved, and sold for the behoof of the owners. In 1783, a boat went from Hillswick to pilot in a vessel, seen off the mouth of the harbour; upon boarding her, found her deserted, and upon endeavouring to steer her, all sails being up, found the helm could not direct her, not discovering that she was dragging 2 anchors. Upon the boat coming a-shore, and giving such account, several boats were manned and sent to her. The weather being stormy, a high sea, and a dark night, the men in the boats could not board her, and in the morning were surprised to find her at anchor near the shore. Some hours after which, she parted her cables, and came a-shore on a sand; she was loaden with logs of wood, and pot-ashes, from the Baltic. Two days afterward, she was claimed by the captain, who, with the crew, had left her only a few hours before the first boat came to her. Ship and whole cargo were sold for behoof of the owners. She belonged to Waterford, and was called the Sea-Flower. Two or three other sloops were lost on this coast; but owing to mismanagement,

After considering the above account, can it be doubted that the situation of the tenants might be much improved, by granting leases, by larger farms, by indulgence and aid from the proprietors at the beginning, to enable them to stock their farms, and make the proper improvements; by a full assurance and confidence that they were entirely free from all restraints in their dealings with others, when they paid their landlord, agreeable to contract. Is it not also obvious, that if 3 or 4 skilful farmers, and as many shepherds from Scotland, were settled commodiously in the parish, that the farmers in the place would imitate their example? For it cannot be said that they are wedded to their own practices and ways; so that a few years might make a great alteration to the better in their circumstances. It is clear also, that the tenants possessing the larger farms, and sheep pastures, should be employed solely in that way, and by no means engaged in the fishing. I have heard it advanced by gentlemen well known in the state and situation of this parish, that it would be much for its advantage, if one fish was not caught by them in seven years. However that be, it is not to be doubted that it would be of great advantage to the people that a great many of the tenants were confined to the improvement of their farms\*: though

mismanagement, more than to weather, or any other misfortune. Since the year 1745, there have been 30 fishing boats lost at sea, belonging to this parish, by which many a widow and fatherless child have been left in the greatest distress.

\* That employment which gives the readiest relief to poor people, will be pursued before that which is more profitable, if the returns be at a more distant period. As there should be many farmers who were not fishers; so it would be also of advantage that every master of a fishing-boat was not a farmer. And, as it is said, that such should be idle the half of their time, might they not also be employed in spinning and making their lines and herring nets? might they not also be carpenters, tailors, weavers, among them, but not so as to prevent their attention to the fishing. The making of coarse soap, tanning their leather on a

small

though the tenants in a lower class might be employed by turns in farming and fishing, and indeed an attempt to prevent it altogether would be fruitless.

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small scale, as the place affords the necessary materials, would be of benefit ; also, the making of salt from sea-water. The women to be employed in spinning coarse linen for sails, and the establishment of an woollen manufacture would be of the greatest benefit. In short, there is, perhaps, scarcely any parish whatever, that admits of more improvements for the benefit and comfort of the people than this parish of Northmaven.

## NUMBER XXVIII.

## PARISH OF TRAQUAIR.

(COUNTY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN WALKER.*

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*Name.*

THE parish of Traquair consists of the old parish of St. Bryde, and the greatest part of the parish of Kailzie, which was suppressed as far back as the year 1674, and partly joined to this parish, and Innerleithen. The water of Quair, which has its rise, and its whole course in the parish, has given origin to the name, which, until the annexed part of Kailzie was added, lay upon the sloping sides of the hills which supply its current: and as the valley of a stream is called its strath in Scotland, it is easy from Strathquair to deduce Traquair. In a charter granted by Robert, Duke of Albany, in favours of William Watson, son to William Wat-

son of Cranston, containing a grant of the lands of Traquair, &c. dated at Edinburgh, anno 1409, it is spelt Traquar.

*Extent, Situation, Surface, &c.*—The greatest length of the parish is along the southern bank of the Tweed, which lies in the direction from E. to W. between 8 and 9 miles. From the Tweed to the source of Quair is from 4 to 5 miles, which is its greatest breadth in the direction from N. E. to S. W. It contains, according to Armstrong, who made a survey of the county about 16 years ago, 17,290 acres, about 4000 of which are arable. The figure is very irregular, being frequently intersected by the parish of Yarrow. It is bounded on the N. by the Tweed. The general appearance of the parish is hilly, rocky, and mountainous. Minchmoor, over which the old road to Selkirk passes, is more than 2000 feet above the sea, and Gumsleugh, and some other heights in the parish are at least 200 feet above Minchmoor. The hills, in general, afford excellent pasture for sheep. The soil on the low grounds, though in general shallow and stony, is fertile; and on Tweed haughs there is a considerable depth of loam deposited by the river in the course of ages. The south sides of the hills are generally green, while their northern exposure is heathy, and of a darker complexion. There are no volcanic appearances in any part of the parish, though many of the neighbouring mountains, according to some theories, may be thought to support such an opinion, as they are piked or conical. The common whin rock, a finer kind approaching to the basaltes, a coarse sort of granite, and a considerable quantity of slate are the only kind of stones found in the parish. The slate was formerly wrought in considerable quantity, but they have of late rather dug at the top, than opened the quarry properly, and on that account the slates are found not to bear exposure to the air without shivering. The noble family of

Traquair

Traquair have made several attempts to discover lead mines, and have found quantities of the ore of that metal, though not adequate to indemnify the expense of working, and have therefore given up the attempt. Not long since, a specimen of the Galena ore was found in one of the streams which falls into Quair water.

*Climate, Diseases.*—The air is dry and healthy, though there are no well authenticated instances of longevity. The lower part of the parish enjoys a mild and temperate air, though the tops of the hills are covered with snow, and the attraction of the mountains often deluges the upper part with rain, when almost none of it is felt in the vallies. The clouds are often seen floating in the air, attracted from mountain to mountain, when there is sunshine below. The inhabitants generally enjoy good health, and are subject to no epidemic diseases. Rheumatism more generally prevails than any other disorder, which is generally denominated the pains; the causes of which, perhaps, are the poor manner of living, the badness and dampness of the houses, the scarcity and dearth of fuel, and an attachment to fishing at night with lights, which is principally practised early in the spring, and late in the autumn seasons, after the Tweed is flooded with rain. In summer 1789, the small-pox, which, for several years, had not visited the parish, prevailed very much, and cut off several children; but though there was a great prejudice in the minds of the inhabitants against inoculation, many of them were prevailed upon to inoculate their children, and all of them did well, the experience of which has gone far to remove their former prejudices.

*Fish, Birds, &c.*—The river Tweed, which runs along the whole N. side of the parish, formerly produced a great

quantity of salmon, which are now but seldom caught, excepting after the river has been flooded : it is probable, therefore, that the methods employed to prevent the fish from getting up the river, are the causes of their decrease. Considerable quantities of trout are caught in Tweed and Quair water. What is called the sea-trout is more frequently found in the Quair ; both the sea and burn-trout are of an excellent quality. They are principally distinguished by the whiteness and redness of the fish. The trout are caught from the beginning of April to the end of September ; they are chiefly taken by the net, which destroys angling. The king's fisher has been frequently seen on the banks of the Tweed. Large flights of wild geese are frequently seen passing from the S. to the N. in the harvest season. The plover, fieldfare, woodcock, dotterel and cuckoo, are frequently seen in their season. The largest kind of raven, and the true hunting hawk, annually hatch their young in Glendean's banks. The fox is also a constant inhabitant of them.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 651. From the best information, there is reason to believe that the parish, about 40 years ago, was double in population to what it is at present. There were then 2 considerable villages in it: the one is entirely gone; and a few straggling houses are all that remain of the other. Farms now possessed by one, were then in the hands of 2, 4, and even 6 farmers, and the number of cottagers, besides the inhabitants of these villages, greater. The number of persons from 20 years old, and upward, might then amount to 400, when, at present, there are not above 239 ; of these 129 are females, and 110 males. The whole souls in the parish at present are 446: Under 10,—118 ; Under 20,—88 ; 48 of whom are males, and 40 females ; under 50,—181 ; under 70,

—39; under 100,—19: of these last, the oldest is 89, who enjoys such health as sometimes to walk to church, though distant from him above three miles, and to return home again without being greatly fatigued.

*Sheep, Horses and Cattle.* The staple commodity of the parish is sheep, of which there are supposed to be about 10,000. Large districts are occupied by one farmer, several of whom have part of their sheep-walks in the parish of Yarrow, though their houses are all in the parish of Traquair. There are 98 horses, and about 200 head of black cattle. The value of wool has greatly increased within these few years, though they, in general, have their farms stocked with Scottish black faced sheep, they being reckoned better adapted than any other for the lands in the parish.

*Agriculture, Heritors, Tenants, &c.*—The whole of the ploughs employed by the farmers, are the old Scottish ploughs, excepting two, which are of an improved construction: but the old plough is supposed to answer best; they are sometimes drawn by 4 horses, generally by 2. When 2 horses are employed, they are directed by the man who holds, when there are 4, they are conducted by a boy. It is impossible to ascertain the number of acres employed annually in tillage. The principal crops in the parish are oats and barley. There is a small quantity of ground sown in wheat, but nothing equal to the consumption. The parish exports considerable quantities both of oats and barley. It is believed from good authority, that there are annually exported of the last mentioned grain 500 bolls. A small quantity of turnips is annually raised, which answers very well; and almost every individual in the parish has his crop of potatoes. Either turnips, potatoes,

tatoes, or pease (of which a considerable quantity) are sown as a preparation for a succeeding barley crop \*.

The sheep lands, and the ground employed in tillage, are, in general, occupied by the same persons. One who has no sheep, but employs the ground he rents solely in tillage, pays for some of it 25s. the acre; but, in general, the arable ground is not the half of that price, nor worth it. There are 5 heritors in the parish. By far the greatest proportion of the lands belong to the Earl of Traquair, who formerly resided in it at Traquair House; but the whole family, for several years, have been on the Continent. There is only one resident heritor at present. The greatest part of the parish is possessed by 10 farmers, one of whom pays above 300l. a-year, 3 above 200l., 5 above 100l. There is a number of smaller tenants. The whole inhabitants of the parish are employed in agriculture, except the few following: 6 weavers, 5 joiners, 1 blacksmith and an apprentice, 2 masons, 1 Skinner, and an apprentice, 1 shoemaker; the whole of whom are employed by the inhabitants, except the skinners, who export their dressed skins to Edinburgh. There are, besides, 5 tailors, who are likewise employed by the inhabitants †. There are 12

Seceders,

\* Oats are sown from the beginning of March Old Style, to the end of April: Barley from the middle of April to the end of May: Pease from the 20th of March till the middle of April: Wheat from the middle of September to the middle of October. The crops are generally cut down early in the season, the reflexion from the hills causing them to ripen quicker than might be expected.

† The number of servants in the different branches of husbandry vary according to the season of the year. Female servants are more numerous in summer than in winter, being engaged for ewe-milking and harvest work in general, at 3l. and from 1l. to 1l. 10s. in winter. A male servant at 6l. Out-herds are paid by the free grazis to a certain quantity of sheep, or the usual wages, 5*2* stones of meal and a cow's grazis. The married servants, of which there are a great many, have, in general, 5l. 10s., their provisions in their master's family, a free house and a garden, with as much land as they can manure, to plant

Seceders, mostly of the Antiburgher congregation, and 3 Roman Catholics. The proportion of the annual births to the whole population, is as 1 to 27; the annual deaths as 1 to 38, and a small fraction. Each marriage, at an average, produces from 5 to 6 children. There are from 3 to 4 marriages annually. The union of farms is to be considered as the great cause of depopulation in this parish. And the absence of the noble family who formerly constantly resided in it, and must have given employment to a variety of labourers, must likewise have greatly contributed.

*Stipend, Church, Manse, Poor, &c.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about 781. Sterling. The manied stipend is 54l. 16s. 11d., and 16 bolls of oatmeal, and 8 bolls of bear. The glebe contains about 11 Scots acres, which, together, make the sum above specified. The King, in right of the Archbishop of Glasgow, is patron of the old parish of St. Bryde. The Earl of Traquair was patron of the suppressed parish of Kailzie; but that family being Catholic, could claim no right in the settlement of Traquair. The church was rebuilt about 9 years ago. The heritors, in spring 1790, very liberally contributed for rebuilding the manse for the present incumbent, which is not as yet finished, and they are likewise to rebuild part of the offices, which, when completed, will render the minister's accommodation very comfortable.—There are, at present, 10 persons receiving alms, who are all, excepting one, who, it is said, has been bedfast upwards of 23 years, able to do a good deal towards their own maintenance. These 10 persons are upon the session's roll, and the annual amount of money for their relief,

plant potatoes, or sow barley upon. The male servants are more numerous in winter than in summer. The married servants, besides their former emoluments, have their fuel brought home by their masters.

relief, is 231., arising from mortified money, a voluntary assessment of themselves by the heritors of 61., and the collections at the church. The beginning of the mortified money belonging to the poor of the parish, was a donation of 1500 merks left by a Mr. Jerome M'Call, minister or parson of the parish before the Revolution, to which 300 merks by Mr. Alexander Veitch of Glen, one of the heritors of the parish; and 100l. Scots by Mr. Thomas Moffat merchant in Peebles, were soon after added. The money now belonging to the poor, amounts to 2071., laid out at 4 per cent. interest. Besides this sum, Alexander Brodie, Esq. who was born in the parish, now living in Carey Street, London, has since 1782, sent, at different times, the sum of 651. 16s. to be distributed among, both such as are upon the session's roll, and to poor householders. This gentleman's liberality, both does honour to himself, to the place of his nativity, and to human nature: and are the best evidences to mankind that he merits that affluence which his genius and industry have acquired. Mr. Brodie's liberality, added to the sum above mentioned, makes the situation of the poor very comfortable.

*Morals.*—Within less than 30 years, the people of the parish have changed their character very much to the better. They were then much addicted to drinking to excess. There were at that time more than 6 alehouses; at present there is only one public house, which is seldom, if at all frequented, but by those who are transacting business, or by travellers, and is on these accounts necessary. They are now sober, and industrious, and are generous, and humane, when called to the exertion of these qualities, as was evidenced both in the dearth of 1782, and since, to a poor widow, who was left with 6 children. They enjoy, in a considerable degree, the comforts and advantages of civilized life. Even the poorest

in the parish, are, by the generosity of Mr. Brodie, formerly mentioned, furnished with the means of having their children properly educated, who has, for a considerable time past, sent annually to the schoolmaster 5l. 5s. for educating the poor children in the parish; which, as it furnishes the means of instruction to such as might either be deprived of it, or who might enjoy it in a more sparing manner, is a very considerable advantage, and must redound to the honour of the liberal contributor. No instances are known of any being banished from the parish, nor of any who have left it for misconduct of any kind. There is not one of them but what is a native of Scotland.

*School.*—At an average, there are 30 scholars who may be taught english, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The teacher can also teach mensuration. The greatest number of his scholars, are such as are learning english. For a country schoolmaster, he has an exceeding good hand of writing, and teaches both arithmetic and book-keeping very well; though few of his scholars are able to attend so long as to feel much benefit by his accomplishments. The emoluments of his office are very scanty, and no way adequate to his usefulness, which, though no partial evil to that race of men, renders it the more to be regretted. He receives 6l. from the heritors, 5l. 5s. from Mr. Brodie; the fees arising from the office of session-clerk, annually may amount to 1l. 10s. He has likewise a free house and garden. As a considerable number of his scholars are upon the charity, the school-wages are no great matter, being but a perfect trifle a-quarter. As a precentor, he is very well qualified for his office. His whole emoluments can hardly exceed 20l., and with that, by great economy, he supports decently, a wife and 5 small children.

*Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.*—The bush above Traquair, which in former times might be a considerable thicket of birch-trees, the indigenes of the soil, is now reduced to 5 lonely trees, which solitarily point out the spot, where love, and its attendant poetry, once probably had their origin. Part of the house of Traquair is of very remote antiquity, was built on the bank of the Tweed, easily defensible from that side, and might possibly, in the days of hostility, be properly guarded on the other. It was in the form of a tower. There have been several other tower houses in the parish, one of which is still almost entire at Cardrona. The tradition of the country is, that there was a continued chain of these houses so situated on both sides of the Tweed, as by lights placed in them, intimation might be given from one to another of the approach of any foe. There are several places denominated Chesters, where there are evident marks still remaining of lines of circumvallation, mostly circular in their form, which seem rather places intended for a security to their cattle against sudden incursions, than regular encampments. Tradition dignifies them by the denomination of Roman camps. They are all constructed upon the top of eminences not easily assailable, and every particular district has its own. Their frequency is perhaps the best indication of their use. Glendean's banks are remarkable for their extent and precipitous elevation. They are more than half a mile in length, and from 200 to 300 feet in height, and are truly a tremendous chasm, as denominated by a certain author.

*Names of Places.*—Kailie, Cardrona, Glen, Fethen, Glen-Jude, Fingland, Teniel, Bold, and Quair, are probably derived from a Celtic origin. Grieston, Know, and Scrogbank, &c. are not of so remote derivation. Grieston abounds with slates, and has given origin to the name, expressive of the colour

colour of that stone. Know is borrowed from its situation, being on a small elevation above the course of Quair ; and the name of Scrogbank is borrowed from the farms, being partly covered with juniper bushes, and other brush-wood, which, in the old dialect of the country, received the general denomination of scrogs. Though many of the places still retain their Celtic names, the language has been for many hundred years, perhaps, lost. The inhabitants, in general, speak the old Scottish dialect.

*State of the Poor in 1782 and 1783.*—During this period of public calamity, the poor of the parish were liberally assisted. Such as were upon the poor's roll, received their usual monthly allowance ; besides which, according to their necessity, they were served with a proportionable quantity of meal, partly at the expense of the heritors, tenants, and kirk-session, and partly at the reduced price of 22d. the stone \*.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The distance from coals, is a disadvantage under which the whole of the inhabitants labour, and the ill repair in which the public roads are kept, makes the disadvantage the greater. The parish is equally distant from lime ; so that both comfortable accommodation in the inclemency of winter, and the improvements of agriculture, would be greatly benefited by a proper attention being paid to them. It is believed, that the statute-work not exacted in kind, as was formerly the case, but demanded in money, would be sufficient to make proper roads through the

\* The money laid out in the parish for relief to the poor in that period of scarcity, besides the ordinary contributions, was upwards of 40l. The parish adopted their plan of procedure at that time, from the method used during the scarcity of the year 1740. Since the years 1782 and 1783, the session's contributions are more than doubled.

parish, though a toll-bar has been erected without any visible advantage within the parish \*.

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\* It is said, that the road between Edinburgh and Carlisle, would be shortened about 27 miles, was it to pass through the parish; and report likewise adds, that a public spirited gentleman has offered to contribute one half towards building a bridge over the Tweed, which, if it were carried into execution, would be a considerable advantage to the whole parish and neighbourhood, as, in place of going more than 20 miles for coal and lime, it would bring these necessary articles within less than 14 miles of the parish, and besides opening the intercourse between England and Scotland, produce many other salutary advantages. The road, so far as the line of direction is known to me, is perfectly practicable.

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF NAIRN.

(COUNTY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF  
NAIRN.)*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MORRISON.*

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*Name, Extent, Soil, and Appearance.*

THE parish of Nairn derives its name from the river which runs through it, called in Gaelic, " Uisge Nearne," or Water of Alders, from the great quantity of trees and shrubs of that species of wood which grows upon its banks. Some are of opinion that Invernearne implies the influx of the western, as Inverear, or Findhorn, does that of the eastern river into the sea. From E. to W. it measures 6 miles, and from N. to S. upwards of 8. The figure somewhat resembles the letter X. In the environs of the town, and along the coast by Delnies, as also about Kildrumie, the soil is light and sandy. On the river side, sand mixed with a kind of mortar or clay. The S. side of the parish is rather

of

of a rich and heavy mould. On the N. side of the river, the ground is flat and level; and on the S. it rises with a gradual ascent, terminating at one corner of the parish in the hill of Urchany, the only eminence in the parish deserving the name of a hill.

*Town.*—The town is a royal burgh. In conjunction with Inverness, Forres, and Fortrose, it returns a member to serve in parliament. At what period it was erected into a royal burgh, is uncertain \*. The immunities of Nairn originally appear to have been very extensive; however, in the lapse of time, these have been greatly lessened; so that the common good now consists only of a few moors, which of late have been let on various leases; and which, in process of time, will be of considerable advantage to the community. There are likewise some lands, besides the burgage lands, which pay eques and feu-duties to the town; therefore, though the public revenue be now but small, yet it is increasing, and in a few years will be considerable. The town originally, being situated in a different place, probably, from where it now stands, was defended by a castle. As far back as the time of King Malcolm the First, Buchanan informs us that this castle was taken by the Danes, and that by them the *custodes* or keepers thereof were cruelly used. Since that period,

\* The first charter, of which any copy is extant, was obtained from James the Sixth of Scotland, in the year 1589, being the renewal of one granted by Alexander, perhaps the first of that name who swayed the Scotch sceptre, as it is only said to have been granted by Alexander. There is also another charter by Charles the Second, in confirmation of the abovementioned one, dated 1661. The town-council consists of 17 members, viz. the provost, 3 bailies, dean of guild, and treasurer, with 11 counsellors, 9 of which make a quorum. The 3 bailies, the dean of guild, and treasurer, in consequence of a late decision of the House of Peers, must be resident. The whole trades make but one corporation.

xed, however, the sea has made great encroachments, and the course of the river is greatly altered. Where the castle then stood, is entirely covered with water, and the river which then run hard by the castle, now flows into the Moray Frith nearly half an English mile to the E. of that place. Nevertheless, there are some persons still alive, who at stream or spring tides, remember to have seen some vestiges of the foundation of the ancient castle \*.

*Agriculture, Heritors, Rents, &c.*—Improvements in husbandry are here as yet very little known. The sowing of clover and rye-grass seeds, though introduced many years ago, yet for want of enclosures, turns out to little account. The field around the town, comprehending something more than 400 acres, is so remarkably pleasant, that perhaps there is nothing like it in the north of Scotland. The lands of which this field is composed, and which are all contiguous, were formerly runridge, or acre and acre alternately; but owing to an excambion which took place about 4 years ago, the different proprietors will now have it in their power, if they please, to enclose their lands, which heretofore, conveniently, they could not have done. The grounds of 2 or 3 of the proprietors are now enclosed with stone and feal fences or funk fences; and 1 has subdivided part of his lands in the neighbourhood. The ordinary crops raised about the town,

and

\* In the town there are 2 very good inns, commodiously fitted up, and well kept. The one is of a long standing, and the other, which is a very large house, was lately built by Mr. Davidson of Cantray, at his own expence; so that persons travelling through this country, may, at this stage, expect to be well accommodated. There are, besides these inns, so many alehouses and whisky shops in the town, that to mention the number, might, to strangers, perhaps appear incredible. It were sincerely to be wished, that these tippling houses were entirely abolished, as they are a nuisance in any place, and highly detrimental to the health and morals of the people.

and throughout the parish, are barley, oats, and pease; potatoes in great quantities are likewise reared. These last mentioned, make up the food of the common people for nearly two-thirds of the year. In the neighbourhood of the town, oats are a very unprofitable crop, seldom yielding the third seed in return. In the parish there are about 50 farmers. The farms small; few of them exceeding 20l., and only 2 amounting to about 50l. Sterling a-year. In this parish are 10 heritors and 1 wadsetter. 4 of the heritors only reside. The valued rent of the parish, as taken from the cefs-books of the county, amounts to 1106l. 8s. Scotch money, exclusive of the burgage lands, which may be nearly half as much. The present real rent, is about 1300l. Sterling, besides about 200 bolls of victual. The rent of lands has risen greatly of late years, both in the town and country districts of the parish. In the immediate vicinity of the town, the acre lets at 35s., a little farther distant, at from 18s. to 30s., and in the country from 5s. to 20s. the acre. Of old, the greatest part of the rent was paid in victual; but now it is mostly all converted into money. Few customs or carriages are exacted. And it is to be hoped, that every remain of feudal servitude will soon be entirely abolished,

*Ecclesiastical State, Schools, Poor.*—Nairn originally was a mensal church attached to the Deanry of Auldearn. The present kirk, manse, and offices, had a partial repair 1789, and are just now in a tolerable state. The stipend is 5 chalders of victual, and 27l. of money, exclusive of the sum allowed for communion elements, which is only 5l.; so that at the ordinary conversion, the stipend does not exceed 67l. Sterling. Brodie of Brodie is patron.—The grammar school is and has been in a very flourishing condition for many years back. The present incumbent, who is extremely attentive

and affiduous, has been remarkably successful in his line. The number of scholars is seldom below 80, and often exceeds 100. Gentlemen from all quarters of the country, and some from England, send their children to be educated here. Every branch of education, which now makes such a noise in the academies, is taught at Nairn, in perfection. Several scholars are annually sent to some one or other of the universities; and many gentlemen who now make a figure in distant parts of the world, and not a few who are an ornament to their country at home, in the learned professions, received their education at Nairn within these 25 years from the present teacher. The salary is only a chalder of victual; and even that paid in pecks and lippies by the tenants \*.—The poor are extremely numerous, and many of them very indigent indeed. The roll contains upwards of 150 names; and therefore, any relief they can receive, must be but very inconsiderable. The funds for their support, arise from the church collections on the Sabbath days, a small mortification, and the interest of some money laid up by the session in good years for the behoof of the poor. A public distribution is only made once a-year; but they who are greatly reduced, and very needy, receive occasional supplies. None, even in 1783, died for want. Independent of the victual bestowed by Government, the session advanced a considerable sum for the wants of the necessitous. The weekly collections are but trifling, seldom exceeding 3s. Sterling of good copper. Many of those who

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receive

\* What a pity, that men of abilities and character, who dedicate their time and labours to the improvement of youth, should be so poorly rewarded, as the generality of the schoolmasters of Scotland are! It is truly melancholy to think, that grooms and footmen should receive such extravagant wages, whilst a body of men, on whose labours the welfare of society doth so much depend, should, in a manner, be neglected and overlooked. There is also in the town a school for girls, with a house for the mistress, and 10l. of salary.

receive some assistance at the annual distribution, work also for their own livelihood. The heritors never have been assessed for the maintenance of the poor.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 1698. From an accurate list taken of the catechiseable persons in this parish, in the years 1789 and 1790, by the present incumbent, from 7 years old and upwards, the total number amounts to 1780. But as there are several families of Antiburgher Seceders in the parish, and some of the Episcopal persuasion, whom the minister at that visitation did not see, the number of catechiseable persons, at the lowest computation, exclusive of the scholars at the grammar school, cannot be below 2000; so that estimating  $\frac{1}{2}$  below 7 years of age, the number of souls in town and parish is, at least, 2400. From the foregoing list, it appears, that in the town there are somewhat more than 1100, and in the country part of the parish, somewhat less than 1300 souls. It is said, that about 40 years ago, there were only 600 inhabitants in the town; so that the increase is very considerable. Some time ago, there were 2 Antiburgher clergymen in this parish: One of them is now settled in Perthshire. Secession, in this country, is not gaining ground. The proportion of males to females, is nearly as 30 to 27.

#### ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES FOR 13 YEARS PAST.

	BIRTHS.			MARRIAGES.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1780	24	24	48		25
1781	38	31	69		18
1782	38	23	61		17
1783	30	19	49		17
				BIRTHS.	

	BIRTHS.		MARRIAGES.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1784	27	18	45	14
1785	24	20	44	17
1786	30	39	69	15
1787	29	22	51	12
1788	23	36	59	18
1789	21	27	48	31
1790	32	30	62	14
1791	30	33	63	13
1792	22	23	45	16
Totals,	368	345	713	227

Average of births nearly 55, and of marriages  $17\frac{1}{2}$ .

ABSTRACT of BIRTHS and MARRIAGES for 5 years previous  
to 1755.

	BIRTHS.		MARRIAGES.	
	Males.	Females.		
1750	28	16		7
1751	19	15		12
1752	32	29		21
1753	22	35		21
1754	28	24		24
	—	—		—
	129	119		
		129		
Totals,	248			85

Annually, there are perhaps from 6 to 10 children of seceding parents, whose names are not inserted in the session records. No register of deaths. In the town, there are about

bout 16 merchant shops ; only about 6 or 8 any thing considerable.

*Fishings, Boats, &c.*—The salmon fishing on the water of Nairn is the property of Lord Findlater, and of Mr. Davidson of Cantray; and also a stell fishing at the mouth of the river. These fishings are let to tacksmen (36 l. each), two in number, who drag or draw the river and stell fishings alternately, or day about. James Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, has a stell fishing on the E. side of the river mouth. The greatest part of the salmon caught in this parish is carried to Findhorn, and sold there to a company of merchants from Aberdeen, who cure and export it either to the London or a foreign market. There are 6 fishing boats in the town, and 2 in the country part of the parish, in each of which about 7 men are employed. Formerly there were from 10 to 12 boats ; but on account of greater encouragement, several of the fishermen, particularly young lads, have removed to other parts of the kingdom. Haddock, skate, cod, flounders, and some ling, &c. are caught in the Murray Frith. Some herrings are likewise, in the season, found on the coast ; but for this last species of fish, the fishermen must frequently go as far to the W. as the Ferry of Kessock, and even to Beauly. In this Frith, fish of all kinds are much scarcer since 1782 ; previous to that year, they were caught in abundance, just opposite to the town, but since that period, the seamen are sometimes obliged to go to the coasts of Sutherland and Caithness for them \*.

#### *Roads*

\* *Prices of Provisions, Labour, &c.*—Within these 30 years back, the price of provisions has risen almost beyond belief. Most articles are tripled in value, many quadrupled, and some far exceed that proportion. Mutton, beef, and pork, which, at the forementioned period, seldom drew more than a penny a pound,

*Roads and Bridges.*—The great military road leading from Forres to Fort-George, is in very good repair. The Highland road from Nairn to the Bridge of Dulsie is remarkably bad. Statute labour is not commuted, and therefore cannot be supposed to be so well executed. The only bridge in the parish worth mentioning, is that of Nairn. It was built in the year 1631 or 1632, as appears from an inscription on a stone of the bridge, now fallen into the river. The inscription is, “*Galielmus Rose de Clava.*” The motto, “*Non est salus nisi in Christo.*” “*Soli Deo Gloria.*” In the year 1782, nearly one half of the bridge was carried off by a flood or speat in the river. In that situation it continues to this day; and were it not owing to the attention of the magistrates and council, who have made a temporary repair with timber, on many occasions, the river would be impassable. It is exceedingly strange, that an affair of such public utility should have been so long neglected and overlooked; for surely it is well known to every traveller, that a bridge over the water of Nairn is much more necessary than either over the Spey or the Findhorn, because the two last mentioned rivers have established passage-boats. It is therefore earnestly to be hoped, that Government will soon take a grievance of such public notoriety

pound, now sell at an average from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound. Fish, even 25 years ago, could be had commonly at 3 d. the score of haddocks, 26 to the score, now they commonly fetch from 28 d. to 2 s. and sometimes 2 s. 6 d. a score. Hens sell at 6 d. and 7 d. each; ducks ditto; and so on. Men servants hired during the year, receive from 4 l. to 6 l., with victuals in the house. Lads and boys in proportion. Maid servants from 12 s. to 20 s. in the half year. Labourers engaged by the day receive different wages at different seasons of the year. In spring, summer, and harvest, a man receives commonly 1s. a-day, without meat; in winter, from 8 d. to 10 d. ditto. At casting peats, women get 6 d., and in harvest 8 d. without meat.

notoriety into consideration, and grant aid for building a new bridge at this place.

*Antiquities, &c.*—On the N. side of the hill of Geddes are to be seen the vestiges of an old edifice, about 26 yards long, and nearly half as broad. It is called *Caisseil Fionlab*, i. e. Finlay's Castle. It has been built with run, or burnt lime, and surrounded at some yards distance with a ditch. The ditch is drawn round the middle of the detached hill, or rising ground on which the house was built, and is still very visible. At the bottom of this little hill, on the S. E. there appears to have been a funk, or draw-well for the use of the castle. Even tradition does not say by whom, or for what purpose this edifice was erected. A little to the E. on the side of the same hill of Geddes, are the remains of the Castle of Rait, built probably by Rait of that ilk, but at what period is uncertain. It was, for some time, the residence of one of the Cummines; and considering the time at which it seems to have been built, it appears to have been a house of great strength. A little below this castle, is a place called Knock-na-gillan, i. e. the hill where the young men or lads were killed. Here, it is said that 18 of the Mackintoshes were destroyed by the Cummines, who then lived at Rait, on account of some grudge that subsisted between the families. At the place of Easter Geddes, are the remains of an old chapel, with a burying ground around it. In this chapel is the burying place of the family of Kilravock; and here they have been interred for many generations back, perhaps ever since the Roses came to this part of Scotland. How long the Roses were in possession of the lands of Geddes, previous to the marriage of the Laird of Geddes with Mary de Bosco, lady and heiress of Kilravock, cannot now, with certainty, be ascertained, as the writs of the family relative to that estate were destroyed in the cathedral

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church of Elgin, when it was consumed by fire. Kilravock, and her husband Hugh Rose of Geddes, obtained a charter (posterior to the loss of the writs above mentioned) from King John Baliol in the year 1293, confirming to them and to their heirs, the lands of Geddes and Kilravock.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The climate is remarkably good. No diseases peculiar to the place exist; but ague, fits, &c., and nervous complaints are perhaps the most prevalent. This town was, of old, greatly renowned for the abundance of all sorts of vivres. All the necessaries of life within about these 20 years, sold very low. A peat-moss, at little more than a mile in distance from the town, was a great inducement for bringing numbers of people to reside there.

\* Concerning the family of Kilravock, it would be needless, on so far as any thing particular. The figure they have made in various departments in life, their taste for the fine arts, for literature, hospitality, &c. is too well known to require the pen of a panegyrist. The name probably derives its name from Geelda, a Pictish Saint, to whose shrine, in this spot, it seems a place of worship was dedicated.

The charter of foundation of the Chapel of Easter Geddes, part of which is still extant, and granted by Hugh Rose of Kilravock in 1473. This chapel was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and endowed with a sum of money, together with a small croft, as a glebe, and an annual manse. The priest or chaplain was to perform daily offices, not only for the soul of the founder, but also for the souls of his predecessors, and of successors for ever. The bull of privileges for said Chapel is dated 26th April 1475, in the 4th year of Pope Sextus the Fourth.

The site of the Constabulary is still visible in the town of Nairn. In Calder were, for a series of time, high constables, and heritable constables. Notice is taken of the Kebback-stone, in the statistical parish of Arderfier. In the N. E. corner of this parish is a plaque called King's Steps. Even tradition doth not say on what account this stone was affixed to this spot of ground. There is an excellent quarry below flood mark, easily wrought, and of no contemptible quality; some chalybeate springs of water, but not of such consequence as to require a particular description.

ple to reside here. But the prices of provisions of every kind having risen greatly of late, and the moss being almost entirely exhausted, have contributed to increase the number of mendicants who infest the place, and added considerably to the poor's roll. Besides the bridge before mentioned, there are two other great disadvantages, which bear hard upon the town and country, and these are, the want of some manufacture, and the want of a pier. Both these might, it is supposed, be removed at no very considerable expense, and to the great emolument of Nairn and the neighbourhood. By altering the present course of the river, many people say that a pier might be built, capable of receiving ships of considerable burthen. Were a spirit of improvement once introduced, either a linen or a woollen manufacture might be established, which, if well conducted, would add greatly to the advantage of proprietors of shares, and to the country in general. The number of people who apparently want employment in the town and its vicinity, is absolutely incredible. If industry, which in a great measure seems to be dormant, were aroused, there is little doubt but Nairn might become a flourishing place.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people, in general, are about the middle size, affable enough in their manners, with a few exceptions, pretty regular in their attendance on the ordinances of divine institution, and rational, without an overheated zeal, or too much coldness in their religion. Those of the Established Church, some few of the Episcopalian persuasion, and the Antiburgher Seceders, live in good terms with one another. \* Few persons from this parish have been criminally

\* Unfortunately, however, this spring two lads were tried and condemned at Inverness for shop-breaking and theft. One of them was hanged. It is surely much to be wished that his fate may prove a warning to others, to avoid the like.

criminally tried before the Court of Justiciary for many years.

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like crimes. The other young man (brother to the lad who was executed), has been reprieved. The writer of this account is sorry to observe, that petty thefts are not so severely curbed by parents in the lower ranks in life, as they ought to be; and he is also sorry to say, that the fatal effects of spirituous liquors become more apparent every day. Nairn is remarkably well calculated for sea bathing. For the accommodation of persons who require the benefit of the salt bath, Mr. James Brander, one of the innkeepers, has a bathing machine provided.

## NUMBER XXX.

**P A R I S H   O F   M O N K T O W N   A N D   P R E S T I C K .**

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF AYR.)

*By the Rev. ANDREW MITCHELL, D. D.*

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*Name, Extent.*

THE parish receives its name from the manor-place of Monktown, which, before the Reformation, is reported to have been a religious convent pertaining to the abbacy of Paisley, from which the village, and many of the farms had their names. This manor and barony have now the name of Orangefield, and had formerly a jurisdiction of regality \*.

The

\* The parish formerly extended to the river Ayr, and comprehended the present parish of Newtown, which, for the accommodation of the inhabitants of that part, had a church erected that was used as a Chapel of Ease, for 3 years, and an ordained minister, preceding 1779. At that period, the community of

Newtown

The parish, at present, extends in length from the N. where it adjoins the parish of Dundonnald, and Symington upon the N. E.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles towards the S. where it is bounded by the parish of Newtown and St. Quivox. From the E. where it borders upon Tarbolton and Craigie, 3 miles in breadth, but in other parts, beyond the Pow-burn, scarce above half that measure. On the W., it is bounded by the Frith of Clyde, opposite to the island of Arran. The village and church of Monkton are distant from the sea about a mile. The prospect is agreeable and pleasant, and the air salubrious. Seldom any epidemical diseases prevail, but such as are common. The village contains about 34 dwelling-houses, and 46 families, and is intersected by 3 toll-roads; one leading from Ayr to Irvine, another to Kilmarnock and Glasgow, and the third to Tarbolton and St. Quivox.

*Church of Monkton, Burgh of Prestick, &c.*—The church of Monkton is an old fabric; no person alive can give any account when it was built\*. The burgh of Prestick con-

3 D 2 tains

Newtown purchased from Sir William Maxwell, then patron, the right of electing their own minister; and with the consent of the heritors of Monkton, the Lords Commissioners of Kirks and Teinds, erected the burgh into a separate parish, and the church was put upon the establishment. The freeholders of the burgh are subjected to the payment of the ministers stipends, which they now raise from the rents of the seats. Before this disjunction and erection took place, the inhabitants of Newtown were distant from the parish church of Monkton, about 4 English miles, and were the most numerous part of the parish, amounting to between 800 and 900 persons. The valuation of the burgh being small, they had only a seat in Monkton church that could contain 12 or 14 persons at most. They are still liable to all public burdens, and future augmentations of stipends, as heritors of the parish of Monkton and Prestick, and pay their usual proportion of stipend.

\* The side walls are  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , and the west gable 3 feet 10 inches thick; and still stands, though bended off the perpendicular on one side, and rent in the west gable. The roof is mostly oak. It has stood since the Reformation, and is probably

tains about 68 dwelling-houses, and 266 persons, 53 of whom are under 7 years of age \*. There are 36 freeholders in the burgh, whose freeholds, at present, are reckoned, at an average, at 50s. yearly, with a privilege of pasturage for 72 soums of sheep upon the common, 5 sheep being reckoned to a soum. Sometimes pounds are driven and executed at the crois of Prestwick. A freeman, when incarcerated, cannot be confined

bably the same kirk that was in the time of Sir William Wallace, Warden of Scotland, when the contest about the freedom and independence of the Scottish Crown commenced, under Edward I., and continued for about the space of 40 years. Wallace is reported to have had a remarkable dream near this kirk, where Sir Ronald Crawford of Crosby, his uncle, sheriff of the county, had appointed a convention before that fatal Justice Ayre, held by the English in the town of Ayr. After performing his devotions in the church, he fell asleep in some place nigh to it, and had a delineation of his future fortune in a visionary scheme upon his imagination; and upon his awakening, had a particular interpretation of it, by a man whom he found upon the spot. The whole is related in the Poem of Blind Harry, in his 7th Book, who copied the facts from the history of Wallace's life, written in Latin by Mr. John Blair, Wallace's intimate friend and companion.

\* The charter erecting it into a free burgh of barony, was renewed and confirmed by James VI., as administrator for his son, Henry Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Kyle, Carrick, and Cunningham, Lord of the Isles, Prince Steward of Scotland, at Holyroodhouse, 19th June 1600, in the 33d year of his reign. The narrative of the charter expressly says, that it was known to have been a free burgh of barony beyond the memory of man, for the space of 617 years before its renewal; but there are no papers besides the charter, that can instruct it to be so ancient. It was the head burgh of barony of the bailiery of Kyle Stewart, when the county was divided into 3 districts, Kyle, Carrick, and Cunningham. Kyle was subdivided into King's Kyle, and Kyle Stewart: the last extended from the river Ayr to the river Irvine; the former from the river Ayr to the river Doon, and had Ayr for its head burgh. Camden says, that the Stewart of Kyle Stewart had his residence at the Castle of Dundonnald. By their charter, they have a right to choose a provost and 2 bailies, with counsellors, and to grant franchises for several trades; to hold a weekly market, and a fair in the month of December, at the feast of St. Nicolas, which is the 6th of that month, according to the Popish kalendar; but most of these privileges are fallen into disuse.

confined with locked doors ; but if he comes out, he loses his freedom, unless liberated by the judicial sentence of the magistrates. None can sell their freedom but to the community, who have power to sell it to whom they please, upon paying the agreed price. Males and females equally succeed to the reholds, in which their charter differs from that of Newtown, renewed much about the same time. The kirk of Prestick still stands, and is an old fabric that subsisted in the time of Popery. The walls are thick, and supported with stone-buttresses at the E. end ; is distant from the sea less than a quarter of a mile, and much exposed to the storms. From it, there is a beautiful prospect of the Crag of Ailsa, the Heads of Ayr, and the Frith of Clyde, where the ships from Greenock, Saltcoats, and Irvine, are frequently passing outward and inward bound ; and it serves as a land-mark for ships at sea. Divine service was performed in this church before the disjunction and the erection of Newtown, every third Sunday, for the most part ; but the burgh of Newtown having obtained a separate erection for themselves, the necessity is superseded, Prestick church being no more than 1 English mile from Monktown, and the parish church at present being as central as could be well devised.

*Patron, Stipend.*—Patron, Robert Reid, Esq. of Adamton. The stipend of Monktown, Prestick, and Crosby, consists of 50 bolls bear, 29 bolls 2 firlots meal, 25l. 5s. 3*1*/<sub>2</sub>d. Sterling, to which the Lords Commissioners of Kirks and Teinds have added, by decree of augmentation, lately obtained, 4 chalders, half meal, half bear, with 5l. Sterling for communion elements, besides manse and glebe.

*Soil.*—The soil of Monktown and Prestick is, in general, fruitful, diversified in its quality. Upon the E. and highest part

part of it, it is an earthy clay, in the middle, deep and loamy, and, as it approaches the sea, is sandy and benty downas, that answer for the pasturing of young cattle; and, from saltnefs of the water, and warmth of the climate, judged condusive to the recovery of weak sheep. Snow and frost are of short duration in the winter, and the pasture open. The grounds are mostly enclosed with ditch and hedge in the Monkton part of the parish, and properly subdivided into parks, with extensive belts of planting. In Prestick, the enclosures are few, the soil sandy, and the tenure by which they hold their freedoms unfavourable for such improvement, being subject to a revolution every 19 years, when, by a rule now established, they are to cast lots for the respective freedom each freeman is to possess. The soil is better toward the E., where it joins the Newtown loch and St. Quivox. The lower part next the village produces crops of rye, oats, and bear, which are good in wet seasons. The soil there is found good for crops of potatoes, and might produce turnip. The most of the enclosing and planting has been made within these 60 years, and there are people still alive, who remember when it began. The ground rents paid by the tenants, at present, are generally from 25s. to 35s. and 40s. the acre, and some pay more. Grass lets at 21s. 25s. and some 30s. the acre. The soil being light rich mould, naturally runs into grass and white clover, when fallow. Before enclosing, some people remember, that the highest rent for croft land was 20 marks Scots; and outfield 2s. 6d. or 3s. 4d. Sterling.

*Agriculture, &c.—*The cultivation is usually 2 years oats, then bear or barley laid down with grass-seeds, sometimes pease and beans, and afterward a crop of oats. When the ground is laid down with grass-seeds, or, after cutting 1 or 2 years, in hay, it usually lies in ley 4 or 6 years. The farmers

farmers generally use 3 horses, with a plough after the English form, and some use only 2 horses. The usual time of sowing, is about the middle of March, and beginning of April; and bear or barley about the middle of May; reaping in August and September; hay harvest in June and July. The manure used by the farmers near the sea, who have the privilege, is sea ware, remarkable for raising crops of turnips, and crops of bear or barley; but does not meliorate above 2 years: They also use lime, of which they have no quarries, but buy and drive at the distance of 3 or 4 miles. There are not above 3 freestone quarries in the parish, which increases the price of building considerably: and as yet, no coal-mines have been found; but there are appearances that indicate that such may be found in process of time, and will undoubtedly turn out to great advantage, as lying near the sea. The quantity of natural wood, is 36 acres, besides large plantations.

There are no rivers in the parish; but there are 3 rivulets: 1. The Pow-burn, over which there is one bridge, on the toll-road leading from Monkton to Ayr, and another lately begun to be erected on the road to St. Quivox and Tarbolton. The other 2 rivulets are called Rumbler-burn, and Fall-burn, which all run into the sea, and in summer are mostly dry. At present, there is only 1 mill in the parish for grinding grain, and another for flax, kept by the same miller. Few are restricted to it, the farmers being at liberty to carry their grain to any mill they please, without being oppressed with multures, which are a great discouragement to agriculture.

The usual produce after milling oats, is 18, 19, and 20 pecks the Winchester bell, now the standard measure of this country. The amount of oats milled by the different farmers in Monkton and Prestick, by an account given by themselves in the year 1791, was 1315 bells; and bear sold, and otherwise

otherwise disposed of, 399 bolls. The oats, bear, and barley, are reckoned to be of the best quality, and bring a high price in the market. There is little wheat sown, though in most places the soil is sufficiently strong, and when sown, produces good crops. The culture of turnips is only beginning to be introduced. One farmer has sowed 6 or 7 acres, and finds his account in it, by feeding black cattle for the market, and preparing the soil for bear and wheat, and likewise sending them to the market of Ayr. Potatoes are mostly planted for family use, and reckoned to amount to about 23 or 24 acres in the whole parish at present, about 13 in Monkton, and 10 in Prestick.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 1163. In Monkton there are 6 heritors, 3 of whom reside.

Examinable persons,	567	Average of baptisms,	20
Below that age, - -	150	Marriages,	- 7
	—	Deaths,	- 10
	717		

The present calculation will not correspond to Dr. Webster's, as that account was given to him before the disjunction and erection of Newtown. That the population is greatly increased, cannot be doubted, as the farms have been divided into small proportions, and new farm houses built. There have been built, 8 new houses in Monkton village, and 4 new farm houses, besides 2 cotton houses for hand jennies, 1 of them for 9, the other for 6, which employs a considerable number of hands within these few years.

**In MONKTOWN, are**

House-wrights,	-	2	Tailors,	-	-	2
Cart and plough wrights,	2		Cooper,	-	-	1
Weaver,	-	1	Excise officer,	-	-	1
Mason,	-	-	Tobacco manufacturers,	2		
Shoemakers,	-	4	Public houses,	-	5	
Blacksmith,	-	1	Feuars,	-	-	16

**In PRESTICK, are**

Weavers,	-	16	Blacksmith,	-	-	1
Stockingmakers,	-	2	Public houses,	-	2	
Wrights,	-	4	New built houses within			
Mason,	-	1	these 7 or 8 years,	13		

Farm houses in the whole parish 37, including 4 gentlemen's seats, who all have farms in their own hands.

**Rent.**—The valued rent of the whole parish, including Newtown, is 1755l. 18s. Scotch money. The real rent of Monkton and Prestick, is supposed to be between 1800l. and 2000l.

**School.**—There is an established school for teaching English, writing, arithmetic, and church music. The salary is very small, being only 100l. Scots, with a house and garden. 40 scholars usually attend for 3 quarters of the year; the other quarter being diminished by the seed-time and harvest work. The wages for teaching are very small, being 1s. 6d. a-quarter for reading, 2s. for writing, 3s. for arithmetic and church music \*.

*Antiquities, &c.*—At Low Monktown hill, 3 quarters of a mile from the church, near the farm house, situated upon a rising ground, a large stone is placed. Upon digging for materials for making a road, several urns containing human bones were found. There is no tradition how they were deposited, if it was not in the time of the Romans, when Julius Agricola commanded, who was said to have sent Roman forces into that part of the country, with the view of invading Ireland. About a quarter of a mile E. from the church, upon a rising ground, stands a handsome sepulchral monument, erected to the memory of Governor McCrae, formerly governor of Madras in the East Indies, which is now the burying-place of Mr. Dalrymple of Orangefield. Upon the estate of Ladykirk, belonging to Alexander Gardner, Esq. there are some remains of a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, called in old writings, Ladykirk in Kyle, situated in the common pasture of the lands of Adamtown, being a part of that barony belonging formerly to the family of Blair, who had the right of patronage in the times of Popery. The building was a square, and turrets placed upon each corner; the chapel placed in the middle. One of the turrets still remains, which some time ago was repaired. The whole is enclosed in the garden at present. When digging,

many

20l. Sterl. yearly: Women's wages are from 3l. 10s. to 4l. ditto: Day-labourers are 1s. a-day, and in harvest from 14d. to 16d., and in winter 10d. from Martinmas to New Year's-day: A maidon's wages are from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a-day: A wright's wages from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.: And a tailor's wages 10d. and his victuals, a-day. Men's shoes from 6s. to 6s. 6d., women's 4s. 6d. and 5s.—The poor's funds of the parish, amount to £30l. Sterling, in stock, besides collections. The poor upon the box, at present, are 12, who receive mostly 3s. a-month, and more when exigencies require. This, with their own industry, is judged a sufficient supply: none are allowed to beg. The yearly collections at the church, amount to about 22l. or 23l. Sterling. The yearly distributions to about the same sum.

many human bones were found, as probably, the burying-place was nigh to it. There is a beautiful prospect from it of the country around, and the western sea. Nigh Prestick, upon the toll-road to Ayr, is situated Kincaise, or King's Case, a charitable institution in the time of Popery \*.

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\* The traditional account is, that King Robert Bruce gave a certain territory of land for maintaining 6 persons that were afflicted with the leprosy, which was denominated God's loan to Robert; and now Robert's loan, generally pronounced loans, lying in the parish of Dundonnald, out of which are paid 6*4* bolls of meal, and 8 merks Scots, with some threaves of straw for thatching the hospital, payable out of other lands in the parish of St. Quivox, being 8 bolls meal, and 1 merk, to each yearly; and if there should be but one, he has a right to the whole. Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie, and his ancestors, were in use to present these persons, and cause an inquiry to be made into their case before they were received. As no diseases of that description appear, persons labouring under diseases thought incurable, or in indigent circumstances, are admitted to the charity. The right of presentation was some time ago sold, along with the estate of Craigie, by judicial sale, and purchased by the town of Ayr.

## NUMBER XXXI.

## PARISH OF WEST KILBRIDE.

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ARTHUR OUGHTERSON.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**I**N the Monkish ages, it was very common for religious recluses, to give names to the places where they either chose to fix their solitary residence, or to have their remains consigned after death. From thence, the name of this parish is obviously derived, being compounded of the Gaelic word "Kile," a burial-place, or the Latin, "Cella," and Bridget, the name of the titular female Saint of the place. This parish is of moderate extent, stretching, in length, from the mouth of the Frith of Clyde, directly N. along the shore, for above 6 English miles. From the promontory of Portincross,

tress, to the remotest inland parts over the hills, it is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  English miles broad; in other places, between 2 and 3 miles. It is bounded upon the whole of the W. by the sea and Frith of Clyde. It comprehends in it, the lesser island of Cumbray, which is separated from the main land, by a sound 3 miles over. Upon the most eminent part of this island, a light-house was erected, about the year 1750, which hath proved of great benefit to the trade; but, from its too lofty situation, it is often so involved in clouds, as not to be perceptible, or, but very dimly seen. The managers have therefore judged it necessary to erect another upon a lower station, upon which is to be placed a reflecting lamp. This will not be liable to the inconvenience attending the other, and will afford a more certain direction to vessels navigating the Frith in the night time. This work is now executing, and will soon be completed.

The whole of this parish is a part of that mountainous tract of country, which, commencing at the southern boundary of it, continues all the way to Greenock. It therefore presents every where, a broken, unequal surface, rising in many places into high hills, interspersed with a number of romantick rivulets, and some of them green to their very summits. From the tops of these hills, a prospect presents itself, which, for variety and grandeur, is scarcely to be equalled. At one view, the eye takes in the broken land and small sounds formed by the islands of Arran, Bute, the two Cumbrays, and the coasts of Cowal and Cantire; the extensive coast of Carrick, from Ayr to Ballintrae; a wide expanded Frith, with the rock of Ailsa rising majestic in its very bosom; the stupendous rocks and peak of Goatfield in Arran; while the distant cliffs of Jura are seen just peeping over the whole, in the back ground. Such a landscape is exceedingly

ingly rare, and has always been particularly pleasing to strangers.

*Climate, &c.*—From the vicinity of this district to the sea, the air is generally moist, and the climate variable; great quantities of rain falling in the spring and autumn, which proves a considerable hinderance to farming operations. Notwithstanding these circumstances, the inhabitants are for the most part healthy, few diseases being epidemical among them; and many of them live to a great age. An example of uncommon longevity occurred some years ago, of a man in the lesser island of Cumbray, who died at the advanced period of 101. The diseases most common, are the rheumatism, and what is called the bastard peripneumony, which most frequently attacks old people. Palsies too, sometimes occur. And here it may be proper to observe, that all the different kinds of nervous diseases, are found to prevail more in countries situated upon the shore, than in inland parts. Whether this is to be ascribed to some peculiar quality in the air, that predisposes to these nervous affections, there being no material difference in the manner of living, the writer will not take upon him to determine. A very malignant species of quinsy, vulgarly called the closing, in some seasons, proves fatal to children of between 3 and 5 years of age. It makes its appearance in the spring and autumn, and baffles every remedy. The small-pox, when they are of a virulent kind, carry off a good many; and hitherto, all efforts to introduce inoculation have failed. No arguments can overcome the superstitious opinions of the people, or their dread of the popular odium.

*Soil, Agriculture, &c.*—As this quarter abounds so much in hills, the soil, upon the whole, must be poor, and in many places

places wet and springy: but to this general description there are exceptions; and there might be still more, were any justice done to the land; or proper attempts made, with judgment and persevering industry, to overcome or alleviate its natural disadvantages. The 3 following soils are the most common: A very light, dry, sandy soil, with a mixture of good earth; the mossy; and a strong tilly clay. These different soils, point out to the intelligent farmers, what method of cultivation they would require. It is agreed, that compost of dung, earth, and lime, would suit the first mentioned soil; and that when laid down richly, it would produce excellent crops of clover and other grasses; yet this hath never been sufficiently tried: and until of late years, the farmers in this part of the country, who had adopted the very worst practice of the old husbandry, remained utterly unacquainted with the method of laying down land in this manner. However, nature has done a great deal for them here, by affording a spontaneous manure, which is well adapted to the light land, and, in a great measure, supersedes the necessity of any other, and that is sea-weed, which is thrown in in such vast quantities by the winter gales, that the people have only to be at the pains to lead it out and lay it upon their fields. This manure, from its hot stimulating nature, is of quick operation, and when aided by a moist summer, and refreshing showers, throws up bountiful crops. For many years, this was the only manure used for general cultivation; and it was applied to all soils indiscriminately, to which it could be transported; and where this was not practicable, the land was left without any other means of improvement, than what it derived from mere rest; any little dung made upon the farm, being used for raising potatoes and bear. The method of management for the outfield land of such farms as lie without the reach of sea-weed, is to let it rest for 4 years; then plough it for a

scourging crops of oats ; then let it rest as before ; next succeed the 2 ploughings ; and so on, in this rotation.

For the other 2 soils mentioned, lime is certainly exceeding proper ; but very strong prejudices were long entertained against it. When the present incumbent entered to his charge, there was not an ounce of lime laid upon land within the parish, and no reasoning could prevail with the farmers to try it ; they pleaded their ignorance of its operation, the method of applying it, and the great expense attending the conveyance of it from a distant kiln. But, whether from observing the great advantages arising from it in neighbouring parishes, where it hath been long introduced, or that they are subjected to certain regulations by the late leases, or from the more enterprising spirit of some new proprietors, a mighty change has taken place in the people's ideas with regard to lime, in consequence of which, vast quantities of it have been laid upon the land within these 3 years ; greater indeed, in proportion to the extent of the parish, than any other within the county. This gives ground to hope, that a better method of husbandry, though yet in its infancy, will, in a few years, from perseverance, and the influence of a laudable example, become more general \*.

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\* The prejudices of the people, are not the only hinderance to the progress of agricultural improvements in this parish. One local disadvantage which it labours under, must have contributed much to retard them, and that is, that there is neither coal nor lime-stone to be found within itself, though pains have been taken to discover them, and attempts made to sink pits for that purpose. And what renders the only expedient for supplying this defect, more embarrassing is, the duty upon coals carried coastways, and even to places within the precincts of the same port, and where the coal-works are situated. This hath discouraged farmers from bringing lime-stone by water, from Arran, and the greater Cumbray, where it is to be had in abundance, because, though it might be procured from those places, at no great charge, there is no coal to burn it with, but what must be fetched at an extraordinary expense. The barbarous policy

The crops chiefly raised in this parish, are oats and bear : the quantity produced from an acre, is from 5 to 7 bushels. In strong clean land, flax succeeds well, and, for a reason which will hereafter be mentioned, the attention of the people hath been much turned to the cultivation of this plant, and greater quantities of flax are raised in Kilbride, than in any neighbouring district ; it is most commonly sown after potatoes. The soil being peculiarly adapted to potatoes, they produce luxuriantly. Wheat is seldom sown here, and no attempts hitherto made to introduce it into general practice, have succeeded to expectation. Beans and peas are not much cultivated ; for, besides that, the soil in most places is reckoned too light for them ; in a climate where the weather and seasons are so variable, they are, not without reason, considered as a hazardous crop. One circumstance, which ought not to be omitted, in describing the state of agriculture in this parish, is, the improved taste some proprietors have discovered, of late, in the constructing of steadings, or farm-houses, upon their estates : in place of the old dirty, cold, inconvenient huts, the tenants are now accommodated with clean, substantial, well aired habitations, where equal attention hath been paid to rural elegance and conveniency.

*Manufactures and Fisheries.*—It hath been already observed, that the people here, are particularly attentive to the

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raising

policy of this law, must appear evident to every person ; it hath been the death of agriculture, wherever its baleful influence hath extended. It must give pleasure to every lover of his country, to observe, that it is now become an object of attention to a virtuous Legislature, who, listening, at length, to the voice of justice and humanity, have judged it expedient to take it off. In this event, gentlemen, whose estates are situated upon the shore, will be induced to erect draw-kilns. The farmer will have lime afforded him at a moderate rate. A vigorous cultivation will take place. The quantity of grain will be increased, and the country assume a new face.

raising of flax. The reason of this is, that considerable quantities of coarse linen are made every year, which is the only species of manufacture among them, cultivated to any extent. It employs the female hands during winter, and brings a considerable sum into the place. It is bleached and whitened at home, at a small expense. There is an annual market for it, in the month of June, where it is bought up by the linen dealers from Glasgow and Paisley, who export the greatest part of it to the West Indies. Near 7000 yards of cloth, of this coarse fabric, are manufactured yearly, which sells at the rate of from 1 s. to 15 d. the yard. At the medium of 13½ d. the yard, the sum produced, will amount nearly to 3891. 11 s. 8 d.; which sum, divided among the farmers and housekeepers, enables them to pay off their domestic debts with more ease and punctuality. Another small branch of manufacture is kelp, of which about 10 tons are made, upon an average, yearly, and which sells at 3 l. and 5 l. the ton. At some former period, a salt-work was carried on, upon the estate of Hunterston. Several old men remembered to have seen the ruins of a building upon the shore, that had been employed in the work; but, from some unknown cause, it was given up. Of late, the silk and cotton branches have been introduced, and employ a competent number of hands. From this circumstance, and the attention paid to the making of linen, the number of weavers must greatly exceed that of any other class of mechanicks. Their numbers are, linen weavers 17, cotton 19, silk 3. The other handicraftsmen are, joiners 2, blacksmiths 3, shoemakers 2, tailors 5.

In the districts of the parish, situated upon the shore, fishing was pursued to an extent that ought not to be overlooked in this account. It appears, from the best information, that, at the beginning of this century, upwards of 30 boats, belonging to the place, were employed annually in the her-

ring

ring and cod fishery ; each boat had 4 men, when at the herring-fishing. From the month of July to October, they were all occupied in this branch. In the months of February and March, about a dozen of these boats, doubly manned, stretched away to the coasts of Galloway, Ireland, and Cantire, in search of cod, ling, and oysters. The number of men employed in these fisheries, when in their most flourishing state, could not be less than 150 ; and the average sum acquired upon them both, might amount to about 600l. Sterling. For many years, however, this trade was on the decline, and the few boats that remained, when depopulation, to be mentioned in the sequel, took place, were, in consequence suppressed ; since that time, no attention has been paid to it, and the art seems now totally lost,

*Rent, Farms, &c.*—The real rent of this parish, is 2528l. Sterling. There are about 40 farms in it, which let from 300l. to 36l. There are 19 heritors, of which, 2 of the greater, and 8 of the lesser, are non-resident. The number of sheep is 2000 ; the most of them are the small black-faced breed. A few of the English breed have been introduced, and are multiplying fast. The wool of the sheep, whose walk is upon the shore, is of a finer quality than that of those who graze upon the hilly grounds, and sells for at least a third more. The sheep upon the higher walks are laid with tar, those upon the lower are not, which, perhaps, may be one reason of this difference in the pile of the wool. The average quantity of wool sold off the different walks, is about 625 stones yearly. The pasture in this parish, is remarkably favourable for feeding ; and both the mutton and beef fattened upon it, upon account of their superior quality in point of flavour and sweetness, have the preference in every market where they are exposed. Of black cattle, there are

about 620 : Horses 255 ; of which, within these 22 years, the breed is mightily improved \*.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755, was 885. From a pretty accurate account lately taken of the number of inhabitants, it appears to amount to 698, young and old. The average number of births, for the last 10 years, being 180 ; of marriages 50 ; of deaths 100. There is not the smallest doubt that the population of this parish, was much greater about 50 years ago, than it is now. The many vestiges of demolished farm-houses to be seen in different places, and the reports of old men, afford sufficient proofs of depopulation. At a medium calculation, there are 100 families fewer now, than formerly ; so that reckoning at the rate of 6 to a family, makes the number of inhabitants to have decreased from that period, no less than 600 †.

### *Ecclesiastical*

\* For some years past, the prices of labour and provisions have been gradually increasing. The wages of an artist have risen from 15d. to 18d. and 22d., and of a common labourer from 12. to 15d. and 18d. a-day. A sheep, which formerly might have been bought for 10s., now brings 16s. and 20s. A lamb cannot now be purchased for much below the old price of a sheep. Butter has advanced from 6d. to 9d. and 11d. the pound : And all other articles in proportion. The cause of this rise is easy to be assigned, from the rapid increase of luxury ; the different mode of living introduced into every rank ; the great demand for hands to be employed in the various branches of manufactures ; and, of course, the vast influx of people from the country to the great towns, where they immediately find work and good encouragement, which necessarily creates an increasing demand, and a ready market for every article of life.

† The reasons for this, may be here assigned. About the time above mentioned, some gentlemen of very considerable property in the parish, adopted the idea of grazing, as being better suited to the soil than ploughing, because, from the lightness of it, it naturally runs into grass : In consequence, whole baronies and large tracts of land, formerly planted thick with families, were thrown waste, to make way for this new mode of management ; and numbers of these small

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, &c.—About 2 years ago, the minister obtained an augmentation to his stipend of 3 chalders of virtual, and 20 l. Scots for communion elements; so that the whole living, exclusive of the glebe, which is a very small one, amounts now to 5 chalders of meal, 2 of bear,*

*Linkithgow*

small farms being conjoined, continued to be occupied by one tenant, while the former occupiers ejected from their little possessions, were obliged to remove to other places in quest of bread, and thus carried away from that where they were born, and many of them reared to manhood, the fruits of their labour and their numbers. We may conceive reasons existing at that time, which might induce proprietors to adopt this practice. The principles of husbandry were not then so well understood; proper attention could not therefore be paid to the land, to work and manage it so as to render it duly productive. The farmers, in those times, had neither the industry nor the enterprising spirit which characterises their successors. There was not the same demand for the produce of a farm, which, at that earlier period, did not bring one-third of the price it does now; consequently, one powerful encouragement to agricultural exertions was wanting. The master had his rent paid with less trouble.

But all these reasons taken together, will not compensate the local evils produced by this mode of management: For, in the *first* place, it introduced a spirit of engrossing and monopolizing farms, which, as it diminishes the population, has ever been deemed pernicious to the interests of a country. *Secondly*, It enriched a few individuals, at the expense of numbers, who were cast out of bread. *Thirdly*, It gave an immediate check to the progress of agriculture. The old husbandry, even with all its defects, was better than none. The object of the monopolizer, being to rear cattle only, he paid little regard to ploughing; of course, the quantity of grain was diminished. The land was neglected and suffered to run into a state of absolute wilderness; so that whole tracks of it are now covered with furze; and, from certain stations, the country presents nothing to the eye, but the bleak appearance of a forest. The consequence, upon the whole, has been, that when, in other places, farming, in its present improved forms, had made considerable advances, in this parish it had made none. In the *last* place, as has been observed before, it gave the finishing hand to the destruction of the fishery. Gentlemen, it would appear, are now sensible of these evils, at least, in as far as the interests of agriculture have been affected by them; and it seems to be their wish to have their estates re-peopled, and they have put their tenants upon such a footing, by the late leases, as to make it their interest to clear and cultivate the land; from which the most beneficial effects may be expected.

Linlithgow measure, and 420 l. Scots; in value, when victual is at a high price, about 126 l. Sterling. The Earl of Eglintoune is patron, and titular of the tiends. The manse is but an indifferent one; and though it has received repairs at different times, it is very little mended, but still remains a smoky inconvenient house. It is subjected to a grievance, or, rather a curse which attends most manses, that it stands hard by the village, and part of it projects into the church-yard. The church is built upon a very bad construction. It is a long, narrow, mean looking edifice; low in the walls, and deep roofed. There are few dissenters from the Established Church, in proportion to the number of parishioners; there being only about 50 belonging to the 2 common sects of Seceders and Relief, who repair to their several meetings in the neighbouring congregations.—As a proof of the industry, and comfortable situation of the inhabitants, in general, the number of poor is small, there being only 7, at present, upon the pension list of the parish: And, what is much to its credit, there are no wandering beggars belonging to it. There is not an instance in the recollection of any one living, of a single pauper strolling without the limits of the place. The fund for the maintenance of the poor, is made up mostly from the collections at the church-doors. Of late, it hath received aid from the liberal donations of some generous individuals, to whose bounty, a statistical history, ought to pay the just tribute of encomium.

*Antiquities, Remarkable Occurrences, &c.*—This article would afford abundant matter for the antiquary and inquisitive naturalist; but we must abridge as much as possible. We begin with the island of Little Cumbrey. This island is about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. It lies in the parallel direction to Bute, from S. W. to N. E. The

strata

strata of the rock of which it is composed, are distinctly marked by nature. Viewed at a distance, they seem to lie nearly horizontal; but, upon a nearer approach, they appear to incline to an angle of some elevation. They begin from the water's edge, receding backwards from, and rising one above another to the top, like the steps of a stair. Upon the S. side, are a few dwelling-houses, and an old Gothic castle, situated directly opposite to another of the same kind upon the main land. Concerning the antiquity of this castle, nothing can now be learned, and no date or inscription, from which it might be ascertained, has ever been discovered. It seems to have been a place of some strength. It is surrounded by a rampart and a fosse, over which has been a draw-bridge. It was surprised and burned by Cromwell's soldiers. The island was then in the possession of the family of Eglintoune, which it has continued to be ever since. In this island, are no fewer than 7 caves\*.

There are yet to be seen, the ruins of a very ancient chapel, or place of worship, said to have been dedicated to Saint Vey, who lies buried near it; probably, it was a dependency of I. Colm Kill.

Proceeding to the main land, we meet with another old castle, called Portincross, directly opposite, as has been observed, to the one upon the Little Isle. Of the history of this, we are able to trace almost as little as the other; but, from its appearance, it bears visible marks of great antiquity. It stands

\* Two of them only are very remarkable. One of these, is a square room of 32 feet, so high in the roof, that a person may stand upright, and seems to be the work of art. The other, which is the largest of the whole, penetrates so far, as never yet to have been explored. The certainty of meeting with damps and mephitick air, renders such an attempt dangerous, if not impracticable. Concerning the use of these caves, tradition conveys nothing certain, and the legendary tales of superstition respecting them, are too ridiculous to deserve notice.

stands upon rocks so close to the sea, that the waves dash against its defaced walls, and at the very entrance of the inlet or creek that forms the port. It seems to have been a royal hunting seat, one of those places to which the Court retired, to enjoy the diversion of fishing and the chase \*.

Hitherto, no satisfying account has been given of the origin of the name of this place. In the common language of the country, it is called Pencross, which is just a corruption of its proper ancient name, Portincross; but, for the reason of the name, we have only conjecture. And, upon a subject so uncertain, we may be allowed to hazard one, just as tenable as any other, in the note below †.

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\* What leads to this conjecture, is, that there is still extant in the possession of Robert Hunter, Esq. of Hunterston, a charter of Gesta, signed by Robert the Second, at this castle, in the 1374, being the 4th year of his reign, vesting the family of Hunterston, in the property of certain parts of the lands of Ardneel; and to which deed, the names of several nobles who attended the King in that excursion, and composed part of his court, are appended as witnesses.

† The promontory, near to which, this port and castle are situated, is the extreme point of land directly W. from Edinburgh. To this day, the track of a line of road, can be distinctly traced through the country, leading from the capital to this port. From this circumstance, as well as from the very name, we conclude it must have been a place of some consequence. In these barbarous and remote times, there could be no trade carried on in it, to give it that consequence. Neither can it be imagined, there was so much communication between the Highlands and the main land, as that this place might be converted into a mere ferry port, for the convenience of passengers, who, we may believe, would hardly be induced, either from profit or curiosity, to visit these inhospitable regions.

The most probable account, therefore, of the matter, seems to be, that this was the place where they took boat to go over to the celebrated monastery of St. Colm Kill, the most ancient foundation of the kind in Scotland, and which, it is well known, was, for many ages, the burial-place of our Scottish Kings. And, as this monastery was established long before any other in this country, it may be supposed, that, in that period of the gloomy reign of superstition, many pilgrimages were made to it. Hence, the name Portincross, being a compound

The next object of attention in this quarter, is the precipice called Ardael Bank, which lies a little to the north-

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of Portus and Crucis; because, from this port, was the nearest and most direct passage over to the royal cemetery, and from it too, the pious travellers took their departure to do penance, or make their offerings at the sacred place. What corroborates this conjecture somewhat, is, that at Lochranza in the N. end of Arran, there is an old castle, where, tradition reports, the companies passing to the western isles, (whether these funeral and pilgrimage processions, is uncertain), were wont to stop and refresh; and then, as may be concluded, crossing over the narrow Isthmus of Cantire, and again taking boat, after sailing through the sound between Islay and Jura, were immediately at Jona, the object of their destination. This port and castle have become still more remarkable, from an occurrence that happened near them, and which deserves to be taken notice of here, namely, the loss of one of the Spanish ships, that composed the famous Armada, intended for the conquest of England, in the year 1588, in consequence of their dispersion by a storm, after the action with the English fleet. She sunk in about 10 fathom water, at no great distance from the shore. It is difficult to assign a reason for the accident; the probability is, that coming up the Frith, with easy weather, and all sail up, and ports open, a sudden gulf from the land, which often happens in narrow seas, had overset her. An attempt was made, some more than 50 years ago, by means of a diving machine, to examine her situation, and whether it was possible to weigh her up, or to recover what was most valuable belonging to her. The diver reported, that from the size of her guns, she appeared to have been a capital ship; and a very large chest was perceived fixed upon deck. The operation succeeded so far, that some fine brass guns were brought up; and a smaller iron one; which still lies upon the beach. This piece of ordnance, has undergone many inspections, and various opinions have been formed about the weight of its shot. To judge from the caliber of it, in its present corroded state, it seems to have been a 14 or 16 pounder. A second attempt was to have been made, with a new and more complete apparatus, when, it is probable, much more of the wreck would have been recovered, but the death of one of the undertakers, unfortunately put an end to the scheme.

Within the very same place where the Spanish ship went down, a fine vessel belonging to Glasgow, the richest that ever was fitted out from this country, and the property of Glasford and Company, was also lost, in the spring of the year 1770. This disaster was occasioned, not by stress of weather, but through the inadvertency of the ship's company, in allowing the vessel to drift too far in during night, ere the light-house was perceived, and in endeavouring to put her about, she missed stays, and went upon the rocks.

ward of Portincross; and forms the promontory or extreme point of land above mentioned. The name is of Gaelic original, and signifies a high point, or Neel's high point. It is truly a noble precipice. A small plain is interjected between it and the water's edge, from which it rises abruptly to the height of more than 230 feet perpendicular. As we approach it upon the S. side, we meet with a vast mound of curious heterogeneous matter, which, if there was any vestige of a crater nigh it, one might be ready to pronounce of the volcanic kind. But as there is every reason to conclude, that, not only the plain between the precipice and the water, but the inland valley which runs along the back of it, have been once occupied by the sea, and the precipice itself formed into an island, another theory occurs, namely, that this mound has, at some period, been thrown up by the influx and eddy of the tide, and must have been collecting there for ages; but being at last left dry by the retiring of the sea, through length of time it is consolidated into a firm compacted mass. As we advance, the rock, composed of different kinds of stone, grows more steep and elevated. At bottom, it is finely skirted with natural shrubbery; farther up, its aged front is adorned with an endless variety of plants, such as hoar-hound, wild thyme, *capillus veneris*, &c. Toward the summit, it is lined with a thick covering of moss, which gives it a very venerable and grotesque appearance; and here, the whole terminates in 3 distinct cliffs, which, from their exact similarity in figure and altitude, have, time immemorial, obtained the appellation of the Three Sisters. In this sequestered scene, where there is so much of the grand and the beautiful, a person given to contemplation, and who loves solitude, may enjoy a walk to great advantage; he will have an opportunity of tracing nature, in some of her more striking features of awfulness and majesty.

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This parish, it hath been observed before, abounds with hills; it may indeed be called a system of them. The names of some of them are Gaelic. The most remarkable are, the Tarbet hill, the Law, the Auld hill, and the Comb or Camb, which signifies crooked. They have all been used as signal posts in the times of the Danish invasions. By fires from their tops, the alarm was soon given of the appearance of an enemy. Upon the Auld hill, there are the remains of a circular building, which, it is likely, was occupied as a watch tower. At the foot of the second, stands another Gothic castle, which takes its name from the hill, the Law, it is one of the completest of the kind to be seen any where. It was formerly one of the seats of the Kilmarnock family, who had large possessions in this part of the country; but at what time it was built, no account can be given; but from its appearance, it must be much more modern, than any of the other two already described. The last mentioned hill, is famed for affording fine millstones, composed of a sort of coarse granite, and are of an uncommonly hard and durable quality. These millstones are in such high repute, as to be demanded from places at the distance of 80 miles; they are dispersed through the Highlands and islands, and some of them exported to Ireland, to America, and the West Indies.

There are no rivers in this parish, but a number of smaller streams or burns, which, after heavy rains, sometimes come down in vast torrents from the hills. One of these, near the northern boundary of the parish, taking its course through a romantic glen, called the Glen of Southannan, is remarkable for a series of beautiful cataracts, which diminish gradually as the stream approaches the sea. The largest of these falls at the head of the glen, is indeed a striking piece of nature's work. The whole stream issuing with a rapid current from between 2 high hills, precipitates over a rock from the height

of 50 feet, into a deep and awful chasm, the bottom of which, is formed into a capacious sphere, as if it had been hollowed out with a chisel, and resembling a basin tumbled upon its side ; over it, the rocks at top, project with threatening majesty. The wildness of the scene is much increased by the fine natural wood that encircles the abyss, where the oak, the hazle, the birch, seem to vie with each other, in displaying their mingled verdure.

Near to this spot, are the ruins of the fine house of Southannan, formerly the residence of the family of Semple, now the property of my Lord Eglintoune. It is built in the Italian taste ; a Lord Semple, who resided some time in Italy, in the reign of James the Sixth, brought the model of it from that country. A beautiful green hill, of a secondary order to the Comb, but attached to it, rises with a bold and sudden swell behind the house, from thence we look down upon the dismantled fabrick of a once splendid dwelling, hiding, as it were, its deformity, among a number of very fine old elms, beeches, and ashes, whose venerable boughs, now bending to the earth, bespeak their age ; and over the tops of the trees and the ruins, an expanded sheet of water, which at full sea, seems to come in contact with them. Viewed from this point, the landscape is abundantly charming and diversified. A few paces in front, are the remains of a small chapel ; the font yet entire.

*Eminent Men.*—Dr. Robert Simpson, late professor of mathematics in the University of Glasgow, whose celebrity in his profession, reflects honour upon the spot that gave him birth, was a native of this place. He long enjoyed a pretty considerable estate in it, which he inherited from his ancestors, but which is now, by purchase, gone out of the family, into the hands of another proprietor. In this obscure retreat, he spent

spent the first years of his life, a period, he often recollects with pleasure. At Glasgow, he received the rudiments of that knowledge, which afterward raised him to so much eminence among men of letters. In his Euclid, his Conic-Sections, and other mathematical works, he has left a monument of genius and intellectual ability.

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— sere perennius —

Quod non imber edax, non impotens aquilo  
Poscit diruere, aut innumerabilis  
Annorum series, et fuga temporum.

*Character of the People, Mansions, &c.*—It may well be accounted a fortunate circumstance for the inhabitants of this place, that their sequestered situation has hitherto secured them from the incroaching influence of that corruption, which in other places of more business and resort, has produced so great a change in the morals of the people. They, on the contrary, have uniformly supported a character for industry, sobriety, and decent conduct. The oldest man living, does not recollect an instance of one convicted of a capital crime. Their festive meetings are conducted with much cheerfulness and rural gaiety, but without riot. Their punctuality in paying their debts, at two terms in the year, is now grown into local usage. They are uncommonly regular in their attendance upon public worship; and at church, exhibit a very decent appearance, from the neatness of their dress, and attention to the sacred service. In their behaviour, especially to their superiors, and to strangers, there is an affability and discretion, that distinguishes it remarkably from the morose and sullen rusticity of some of the more inland peasants. In fine, in their labours, their amusements, and the general temper of their conversation, one may readily recognise the happiness,

pines, contentment, and comfortable independence, of an honest and peaceable people.

The men are, in their stature, generally above the middle size, stout and well made, and make hardy husbandmen and sailors. And this leads us to observe, that perhaps no country parish in Scotland, has afforded so many men to the sea, as West Kibride. From a calculation made in the year 1781, it appeared that upwards of 63 men were employed in the service of the Navy, or aboard trading vessels, and some of them were in every great action fought at sea, during the late war. At present, the number is considerably less, upon account of the great encouragement, of late years, held out to manufacturers, which induced many young men, who would otherwise have gone to sea, to become weavers; the wages and pay of a seaman, being so much below what can easily be earned by the commonest manufacturer. What a pity is it, that these brave and useful men, from whose toils and dangers, their country acquires so much wealth and glory, are not more adequately rewarded! This change in the inclinations of the young men, which determines them to prefer the manufacturing to the seafaring line, may indeed be more gainful to individuals, but, in a moral view, promises no advantage to the community; as there is some reason to dread, that the ingenious, frank, and manly character of the tar, may, in time, give place to the petulance and effeminacy, the turbulent, factious, and fanatical spirit, which experience has proved to be but too generally attached to people who follow the more domestic occupations.

*Concluding Observations.*—We already took notice, that one capital hinderance to the progress of agricultural improvements, in this part of the country, is the duty on coals; the repealing of this duty, therefore, will be a most productive

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mean of promoting those improvements. It will facilitate the procuring of lime, without which, nothing effectual can be done ; and when joined to the additional advantage of an excellent road, which the people now enjoy, the great road leading from Greenock to Port-Patrick, passing through the whole length of the parish, will give a spirit to the exertions of the husbandman hitherto unknown. It will secure the good effect of the example of those more industrious and enterprising farmers, who have already done a great deal, under all the disadvantages of driving lime from a distance. And it will render the more lazy and obstinate ones inexcusable, when every cause of complaint, arising from the great expense of this article shall be removed \*. This measure may

likewise

\* Another thing of great importance to be attended to is, the reviving and restoring the fisheries. As farming and fishing cannot conveniently and effectually be carried on together, the last ought to be put upon such a footing, and such encouragement given, as to render it worth any person's while to pursue it as a separate branch. In order to this, it is absolutely requisite to have some proper station, to which boats may have easy access upon all occasions, and may lie in safety ; and also proper habitations for the accommodation of the fishers and their families. Upon a bleak and open coast, such as this is, and where there is so much foul ground, a stable and regular fishing can never take place without these provisions. Hitherto, this shore has afforded nothing of the kind. The port of Portincross does not answer the purpose, the entrance of it is so environed with rocks, that boats can only take it in easy weather, and they must be drawn up without the reach of an impetuous surge which drives in with every gale. A little to the northward of the old port, between it and a place called the Throughlet, the entrance to the precipice above described, nature points out a spot, which, by the hand of art and industry, might be formed into an excellent fishing station. There is a fine natural inlet, upon which there is always sufficient depth of water, and which could be easily widened to the design ; within, a spacious basin might be scooped out, where boats and smacks of all dimensions might enter and lie in the most perfect security in all weathers. Around this place, is a great deal of barren land, which at present yields nothing but indifferent pasture. This might be profitably laid out in steadings and gardens for the convenience of those employed in the fishing.

likewise be of great benefit to some proprietors, in another respect, as it will probably induce them to erect salt-works, a branch of manufacture that might be pursued here with profit; as this part of the Frith, being not liable to be affected with freshes from large rivers, the water, from its strong marine impregnation, promises to be productive.

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ing. The execution of this scheme, no doubt, would be attended with considerable expense; but if it is practicable, what can men of property do with their money that is better? are they not to be blamed for neglecting undertakings, where they might lay it out with advantage, and do essential service to their country?

If fishing was considered as an object 80 years ago, when the price of fish of all kinds was low; and even under all the disadvantages arising from the want of a convenient harbour: much more would it be an object now, when the prices are advanced in a four, fix, and tenfold proportion, and when every encouragement was given that the nature of the business requires.

## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL.

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF ABERNETHY.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN GRANT.*

## Name, Extent, Surface, &amp;c.

IN Monkish history, this parish derives its ecclesiastic name from St. Michael, to whom the chapel, where now the kirk stands, was anciently dedicated. If this account be true; it may be observed, that the tutelary patron, ever since the period of his election, has paid little regard to the morality of his clients. In the Gaelic, the vernacular idiom; it is called Strath-āth-fhin, from "Strath," a dale, "āth," a ford, and "Fin," the hero Fingal, so highly celebrated in the Poems of Ossian. It is generally written Strath-avan, avan being the appellative for a river; but the former etymon approaches much nearer to the provincial pronunciation.

tion. It is further confirmed by a stanza, which is still recited by the old people of the country.

Chaidh mo bheans bhatha',  
 Ain uisg āth-fhin, nan clachan fleamhuin ;  
 'S bho chaidh mo bheans' bhatha',  
 Bheirneid āth-fhin, ainnm an amhuin.

" On the limpid water of the slippery stones, has my wife been drowned, and since my wife has there been drowned, henceforth its name shall be the water of Fingal." It is the tradition of the country, that in one of Fingal's excursions, in pursuit of the deer of the mountains, after having crossed the river, he was followed by his wife, who being carried down by the violence of the stream, sunk, and was drowned. To commemorate this melancholy event, in which the hero was tenderly interested, he uttered the above stanza. Since that period, the water, which was formerly called An-uisgeal, or the White Water, in allusion to its transparency, assumed by an easy transition, the name of the ford or river of Fingal.

The parish of Kirkmichael\* is divided into 10 little districts,

\* It is presumable, from its desolated situation, the natural barriers by which it is separated from the circumjacent countries, the detached hills, and numerous streams, by which it is intersected, that the parish of Kirkmichael has not been inhabited till of a late period. Several old people, now alive, remember the first culture of a space of ground within its precincts, that may contain, at present, a tenth part of the whole population. To this circumstance, and the coldness of the climate, it has been owing, that the possession of the property has undergone so few changes. The first proprietor, as far as can be traced back by the light of authentic records, seems to have been Macduff, Thane of Fife. In a charter, where he makes a gift of the contiguous parish of Inveraven, it is said, " Malcolmus de Fife, salutem. Sciant presentes, me dedisse, et hac carta confirmasse, Deo et Episcopo Moravieni, ecclesiam beati Peteri de Inveraven,

tricts, called Davochs\*. Several antiquaries have mistaken the etymon of Davoch; but the word is evidently derived from Daimh, oxen, and Ach, field. In its original acceptation, it imports as much land as can be ploughed by 8 oxen. In the Regiam Majestatem, it is clearly defined †.

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Inveraven, quam Bricius tenuit, et cum omni parochia totius Strathaven, cum decimis et oblationibus, in perpetuam Eleemosynam." This gift was made in the 13th century; and, upon the decline of the ancient family of Macduff, the property was transferred to Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, of the Royal Family. In 1482, Sir Walter Stewart, grandson of the Earl of Buchan, in the illegitimate line, resigned it to King James the III. By King James the III., it was given to the Earl of Huntly. In 1492, this gift is confirmed by King James the IV., in favour of Alexander, Lord Gordon, Master of Huntly. This noble family have continued the proprietors of the parish of Kirkmichael ever since. So that during a period of near 500 years, the observation of a Greek poet, justified by general experience, upon the fluctuations of property, can scarcely be applied to this district.

*Ἄγρος Αχαίμενος γενόμην ποτε, τὸν δὲ Μαντινεῖον  
Καὶ τάλπας εἰς στρέψει, βασικαὶς εἰς στρέψει,*

\* One of these belongs to that respectable character, Sir James Grant; the other 9 are the property of his Grace the Duke of Gordon, a nobleman not more distinguished by his great and opulent fortune, than for the antiquity of his family, his splendid hospitality, his patriotism and humanity. What the poet Buchanan applied to one of his ancestors, may, with equal propriety, substituting the past for the present, be applied to his Grace:

*Dives opum, luxuque carens, domus hospita cunctis.  
Pacis amans pectus, fortis ad arma manus.*

It is observed by an eminent historian, that Charles V., was not more conspicuous for his own good sense, than for that proof which he exhibited of it, in the choice of his ministry. This observation will apply to his Grace, in its full latitude; as the gentlemen, to whom his Grace has intrusted the management of his business, have acquired an esteem, to which candour, integrity, and affability have justly entitled them. In this character Mr. Tod is too well known to require the feeble panegyric of the writer of this Statistical Account.

† "Davata," says that writer, "apud priscos Scotos, quod continet quatuor aratra terre, quorum unumquodque trahitur octo bobus. Alii quatuor aratra duplia

This parish lies at the western extremity of the county of Banff, from which it is distant between 30 and 40 computed miles. On every side, there are natural barriers which separate it from the surrounding countries; from the parish of Strath-don, toward the S., by Leach'-mhic-ghothin, the declivity of the smith's son; from the parish of Cromdale toward the N. by Beinn Chromdal, the hill of the winding dale. These are two long branches of hills, that, running in an easterly direction, project from the northern trunk of the Grampian mountains\*. From the parish of Abernethy toward the W., it is separated by moors and hills, that connect Cromdale hill with Glenavon; from the parish of Inveravan, by moors, and hills, and narrow desiles. The length between the extreme points that are habitable, may be about 10 computed miles. The breadth is unequal. Where it tapers at the extremities, in some places, it is less than a mile; between the verges that bound the middle, it may be

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plicia intelligent, quae sunt octo simplicia: sed servari debet usus, et consuetudo locorum. In nonnullis libris hoc legitur bavata terre contra fidem veterum codicium authenticorum. Bavata autem terre continet tredecem acrias, cuius octava pars comprehendit unam acram, dimidium acræ, et octavam partem acræ." This passage shows, that in ancient times, in the Highlands, a small portion of land was cultivated, in comparison of the present. A davoch of the ordinary extent of these districts, would now require, at least, three times as many cattle to labour it, as were formerly employed according to the above passage from the Regiam Majestatem. Hence, it may be inferred, that the population has increased in proportion.

\* Grampian, from Grant and Beinn. Grant, like the *ayos* of the Greeks, has two opposite meanings. In some fragments ascribed to Ossian, it signifies beautiful. This meaning, now, is obsolete, and it signifies deformed, ugly, &c. The old Caledonians, as these mountains abounded in game, and connecting beauty with utility, might have given the name in the former sense. Mr. Henry Saville, and Mr. Lluyd, two eminent antiquaries, call them Grant Beinn, from which comes the soft inflected Grampian of the Romans.

about 3 computed miles. In its shape, it resembles an irregular oblong oval.

Cairn-gorm, or the Blue Mountain, one of the high, though perhaps not the highest of those lofty mountains that stud the Grampian desert, rises 4050 feet above the level of the sea; and Loch-avon not more than a mile from the foot of the Cairn-gorm \*, 1750 feet. At the southern extremity of the parish, there is a cataract falling from a height of 18 feet. From this cataract to Lochavon, the source of the river, there are 8 computed miles; between the manse of Kirkmichael, which lies within 2 miles of the northern extremity of the parish, and the above cataract, there are 7 computed miles. As the source of the river there, is situated so near the cultivated part of the country, it may be inferred, that the situation of the whole ground is very considerably elevated above the surface of the sea†. The face of the country,

\* For the height of this mountain and Lochavon, the writer is obliged to James Hay, Esq. of Gordon Castle, a gentleman of much knowledge, whose skill in observing, and whose accuracy in describing natural appearances, are well known to the Linnaean Society in London.

† Close by Lochavon, there is a large stone called Clach-dhian, from clach, a stone, and dhian, protection, or refuge. It has been a cavity within, capable of containing 18 armed men, according to the figure made use of in describing it. One corner of it rises 6 feet 4 inches in height. The breadth of it may be about 12 feet. Plain within, it rises on the outside from the several verges of the roof, into a kind of irregular protuberance of an oblong form. In times of licence and depredation, it afforded a retreat to freebooters.

Clach-bhan, from clach, a stone, and bean, a woman, is another stone situated upon the summit of a hill, called Meal-a-ghaneimh, from meal, a knoll or mound, and ganeimh, sand. On one side, it measures 20 feet in height. On the other side, it is lower and of a sloping form. In the face of it, 2 seats have been excavated, resembling that of an armed chair. Till of late, this stone used to be visited by pregnant women, not only of this, but from distant countries, impressed with the superstitious idea, that by fitting in these seats, the pains of travail would become easy to them, and other obstetrical assistance rendered unnecessary.

try, in general, exhibits a bleak and gloomy appearance. In crossing the centre of it, few cheering objects attract the eye of the traveller. From detached hills covered with heath, and destitute of verdure, where here and there a lonely tree marks the depredations of time, he naturally turns with aversion. But, should he happen to pass after a heavy fall of rain, when the numerous brooks that intersect the country pour their troubled streams into the roaring Avon, he must commiserate the condition of the inhabitants, at such a season, precluded from the rest of the world, and even from enjoying the society of each other. Frequently in winter, the snow lies so deep, that the communication between it and other countries, becomes almost impracticable. The banks of the Avon, however, are pleasant enough, and in different places tufted with groves of birch, mixed with some alder. This being the largest stream that waters the country, from its source to where it falls into the Spey (the *Tueffis*<sup>\*</sup> of Antoninus's Itinerary), it flows over a space of 24 or 25 miles, including its windings. In the parish, there are 2 other lesser streams, besides a variety of brooks; the one called Conlas, from cuthin, narrow, and glas, green, and the other, ailenac, from eil, a rock, and nidh, to wash.

*Climate.*—From its elevated situation, the numerous brooks by which it is intersected, and its vicinity to the Grampian mountains, it might naturally be expected, that the atmosphere of this country has little to recommend it. Of this, the inhabitants have sufficient experience. Their winters are always cold and severe, while their summers are seldom warm and

\* *Tueffis*, from Tuath, north, and uifg, water, by way of eminence, being the largest river in the N. of Scotland, it was afterward called Spey, from Spadha, a long stride, in allusion to the length of its course.

and genial. The disorders consequently to which subject, may, in a great measure, be attributed mate. These, for the most part, are coughs, and affections of the lungs, by which many of the in life are cut off, and frequently severals, of that at an earlier period. In summer and autumn, medical Faculty call nervous fevers, chiefly prevail quently prove fatal. These are the common disor

*Soil, Springs, Natural History, &c.*—As the country rises into hills, or sinks into valleys, as in declivities, or extends into plains, the soil accordingly. Along the banks of the Avon, and the brooks, consists of a mixture of sand and black earth; in elevated plains, of a pretty fertile black mould, in declivities, of a kind of reddish earth and nearer it approaches the summits of the hills, it is moss and gravel. In some few places, it is deep. In the parish, there are several springs of mineral water. One in particular, is much frequented by people to the stone, or labouring under stomachic complaints. medical gentlemen, who have made the experiments, that it is superior to the celebrated wells of Panar side. It has been observed, that the hills of this country are covered with heath, and destitute of wood; yet in the recesses of the heath, there grows a rank grass, called Ganach an Shleibh, or the mountain dove. cattle and sheep feed in summer, and grow tolerably fat. A forest of Glenavon which is 11 miles in length, between 3 and 4 in breadth, contains many good pastures for a 1000 head of cattle. This forest is the property of his Grace the Duke of Gordon. Fun-

the S., and forming a division of the forest of Glenzvon, lies Glenbuilg, also the property of the Duke of Gordon. Glenbuilg will be about 5 miles in length, and between 2 and 3 in breadth. If no part of it were laid under sheep, it might afford pasturage for 500 or 600 head of cattle.

The long and narrow defile that bounds the southern extremity of the parish, and contiguous to the Avon, exhibits a beautiful and picturesque appearance. It is every where covered with grass, the ever-green juniper, and the fragrant birch. From the beginning of April, till the middle of November, sheep and goats, in numerous flocks, are constantly seen feeding on its pendent sides. In many of the Grampian mountains are found, precious stones of a variety of colours. But whatever may be their specific difference, they are all denominated by the well known name of Cairn-gorm stones, that being the mountain in which they have been found in the greatest abundance. Some of them are beautifully polished by the hand of nature, while others are rude and shapeless. They are ranked by naturalists in the class of topazes \*.

#### *Population,*

\* Limestone is so plenty, that there is scarcely a farm in the whole parish above a mile and a half's distance from a quarry of it. Free-stone is also found, but of a soft and friable quality. A slate quarry has been opened many years ago, and occasionally wrought; the stone is of a greyish colour. It is hard and durable, and supplies the neighbouring countries in that article, particularly Strathspey. So little tenacious is his Grace the Duke of Gordon of his right of property, that he allows every person to use these quarries at pleasure, free from all restraint. Two marl pits have been discovered, but lying on the distant skirts of the parish. Farmers have not availed themselves of the marl as a manure; there are few, however, who use not lime for this purpose. In the year 1736, an iron mine was opened in the hill Leach-mhic-ghothin, which separates this parish from Strathdon, by a branch of the York-Building Company, then residing in Strathspey. It was continued to be wrought till 1739, when, by a derangement in their affairs, they left that country. Since that period, it has been totally abandoned. This mine also, is the property of the Duke of Gordon.

*Populations, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755, was 1288. No sessional records are now in existence belonging to this parish, previous to the 1725, when the incumbent before the last was admitted. Ever since, it has not been possible to keep them with accuracy. Dissenters, of whatever denomination, watch the opportunity of encroaching upon the prerogative of the Established Church. As the third, then, of the people of this parish are Roman Catholics, the priest generally takes the liberty of sharing in the functions that belong to the Protestant clergymen \*.

By the most accurate inquiry, it has been found that this parish contains 1276 inhabitants, young and old, and of both sexes. Of these, 384 are Roman Catholics: all the individuals of each profession are included, in 253 families, containing, at an average, 5 persons to a family, with 265 chil-

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\* From this circumstance, it must happen, that there will be several marriages and baptisms unknown to the session, and consequently cannot have place in its records. Hitherto, the present incumbent has not checked this encroachment, from his aversion to every kind of illiberal intolerance; but, on the contrary, allowed the Roman Catholic priest to use every liberty, as if toleration had extended to this country. He allows him to marry and baptize, impose penalties, and exact them among his own people, in the same manner as if he were of the Established Church. The writer of this statistical article mentions this circumstance, as he thinks it ought to be an invariable rule of conduct to practise that divine precept, in doing to others, as we would wish others do unto us. Some years ago, too, the taxes imposed upon deaths, marriages, and baptisms, made them be considered as a kind of contraband goods; and for that reason, many of them were as much as possible concealed from publick view, that they might elude an imposition, which they called tyrannical and oppressive. Though in a different language, this novelty, to their experience, incited the people frequently to utter the indignant sentiment of Ba-jaculus, general of the Anfibarii, as mentioned by Tacitus, "Deesse," says he, "terra in qua vivamus, in qua moriamur, non potest." To the operations of these causes, it must be imputed, that so little satisfactory light, respecting the population, can be derived from the mutilated records of the session of Kirk-michael.

dren under 8 years of age \*. During the 4 last years, according to a late survey, there have been born, at an average, annually, 32 children, in the proportion of 21 males to 19 females. Old women are found to be more numerous than old men, in the proportion of 3 to 2. In this period, 10 have died of each; two men at the age of 95 and 86 years; and two women at the age of 93 and 95 years. During the same period, 14, at an average, have died annually. There is just now living, two men 88 years each, and three women, 87, 89, and 91, each. The average of marriages for the last 4 years, has been 6 annually.—By a pretty accurate calculation, the total of black cattle in the parish, amounts to 1400, with 7050 sheep, 310 goats, and 303 horses. No other domesticated animals are reared, except some poultry, and a few geese.

*Acres, Rent, &c.*—The whole parish, exclusive of the forest of Glenavon, Glenbuilg, and the hill pasture belonging to the dawoch of Delnabo, the property of Sir James Grant, contains 29,500 acres, of which little more than 2550 are arable. The whole rent may be about 1100 l. Sterling; but to a certain extent of grass following each farm, no rent is affixed.

*Ecclesiastical State, Schools, Poor, &c.*—The glebe, manse, and garden, occupy a space of between 9 and 10 acres, situated on an eminence, and hanging upon the sloping fides. A part of the soil is poor, and a part tolerably fertile. The value

\* By consulting the session records for the years 1749, 1750, and 1751, when the records appear to have been kept with more than usual accuracy, in the first of these periods, there were born 14 males, and 14 females; in the second, 23 males, and 20 females; and, in the third, 16 males, and 16 females.

value of it may be about 6 l. \*. The church was built in 1747, and has been never since repaired. As a house of worship, it would appear to a stranger to be totally deserted. A few broken windows mark the fable walls: the glass is broken, and gives free access to the winds from all the cardinal points. Were the people enthusiasts, a little current of air might be necessary to cool them; but in their present disposition, they frequently complain of the inroads of the cold, to disturb them in their sober meditations; yet they never express a wish to remove the inconvenience. Their apathy is the more extraordinary, as his Grace the Duke of Gordon, is ever ready to listen to the representations of his people, and never refuses to grant them a just and equitable request. Sir James Grant is patron of the parish. From 1717, till 1786, the stipend of this parish was no more than 47 l. 4 s. 5*½*d. Sterling. During the latter of these years, his Grace the Duke of Gordon, informed of the smallness of the living, was pleased to bestow upon the present incumbent, without the painful feeling of solicitation, a gratuitous augmentation; and this at a time when the Court of Session were inimical to such claims. The stipend, at present, is 68 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, with 10 l. Sterling, allowed by his Grace for a house. It will not be deemed a digression, to mention that his Grace gave a farm to the present incumbent, at a moderate rent, when an advanced one, and a fine of 20 guineas were offered by others.—There are 2 schools; a Society one at Tammtoul,

\* No grass is annexed, except a share of the common hill pasture. It lies at the distance of 3 computed miles from the moor, to which there is a bad road, rising into ascents, and falling into declivities. In rainy weather, a kind of gully contiguous to it, becomes impassable, which frequently prevents the minister from getting home his fuel in the proper season. Owing to this circumstance, he is generally ill supplied, and obliged to accommodate himself at some distance in the neighbourhood, at a considerable expense.

with a salary of 13 l. 10 s., and a parochial one at Tainch-laggan, with a salary of 8 l. 6 s. 8 d.—No funds appropriated for the relief of the poor, have been hitherto established in this parish. Three years ago, the trifling sum of 5 l. Sterling, was bequeathed by an old woman; and, without exaggeration, few parishes stand more in need of the charitable contributions of the well disposed. The number of the old and infirm at present on the list, amounts to 32 persons; while the annual collection, distributed last week, came to no more than 42 s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. Sterling. In this large treasure, designed to be incorruptible, beyond the power of moths and rust, there were 1 s., 5 sixpences, 443 d., and 50 farthings \*.

The price of provisions in this country has been different, at different times. In the reign of King William, it is well known

\* In the years 1782 and 1783, the incumbent felt experimentally, the wretched condition of the poor here, and from the neighbouring countries. Though his own income was only, at that time, 47 l. 4 s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  d.; yet, of this pittance, he expended, at a moderate calculation, 7 l. Sterling, each of these years, in charity. Preaching that virtue to others, the forlorn urged their claims to him for the practice of his doctrine; nor were their claims, proportionate to his abilities, refused. During the above years, his Grace the Duke of Gordon extended a humane concern to the distresses of the inhabitants, by supplying them in meal and seed-corn, at a moderate price. No person, as far as the writer of this statistical article knows, died of want, though, it may be presumed, that a portion of aliment unusually scanty, might prove the ultimate cause of the death of several. As the poor are peculiarly under the protection of providence, and left as a tax upon the affluence and luxury of their more fortunate brethren of mankind, it were to be wished, that in parishes where there are no funds, where the contributions are small, proprietors would be pleased to bestow some little annual sum, under proper restrictions, to afford them relief. Such charity might contribute to secure themselves a property in a more permanent country, and better climate than the present, where, even according to Homer,

Οὐκέτε, οὐδὲ χαίρετε τοῖς οὐρανοῖς  
Ἄλλα σὺ Σιφύην λιγνίσσοντος απειχεῖς  
Ωντας ευτυχεῖς απολύξεις απόπειται.

known that a famine prevailed over the whole kingdom during several years. Either agriculture must have been imperfectly understood, or must have been severe, when a boll of meal cost Sterling. The year 1709, is also noted for a winter, uncommonly rigorous over every part of

\* In France, it is described by a Poet of the time, as blasting even the vine.

" ————— hinc," says he, " postros et nux et oliva per Interiit, brumaque truci vix restitut illex."

The effects were felt in this country, and virtual rose in proportion of meal cost 1l. 3s. Sterling. There are many still alive, who saw the year 1740. The frosts came in September, and the snow fell so deep, that the corn continued buried under it, till January and February. At that period, the boll of meal rose to the exorbitant price of 10s. and to increase the misery of the people, those who sown mixed it with lime, which to many proved fatal. To support cattle, a practice now that is never used in this country. About the seasons being favourable, the boll of meal sold at the low price of 1s. During the last 20 years, the average price, exclusive of 1783, has been about 16s. Sterling. The price of black cattle and sheep, backward, has been, upon the whole, high; cows and calves 6l., and 7l. each; sheep and lambs for 10s. and 12s. each; 7l. each, sometimes 8l. For the 3 last years, the prices have been third. Poultry sell for 6d. and 7d. each, and pullets for 2d. eggs sell at 2d. and 3½ d. the dozen. The difference between these articles at present, and in ancient times, cannot be accounted for; but before the year 1745, which forms a remarkable era, cows sold for 2l. and 50s.; cows, with their calves, for 25s., and sheep, with their lambs, 2s. 6d., and 3s. 6d.; and other portion.

From a consideration of the circumstances of the Highlands up to the 1745, were in some measure stationary, it may be observed, during a considerable time, these were the standard prices; commerce introduced into the S. of Scotland, operates with a

Among other grievances, it must not be omitted, that the inhabitants in this, and the contiguous districts, complain with melancholy declamation, on the heavy and increasing taxation imposed by Government. Salt, leather, and iron, whether it be, in order to increase the revenue, they are, as it were, farmed out, and have become a kind of monopoly, or that an additional tax is laid upon them; whatever be the cause, they bitterly complain of the unusual and exorbitant prices of these articles. It is pleasant to hear them observe, that from the tax upon leather, in particular, they will derive one advantage: it will diminish the number of beggars, by confining them in winter to their booths to die at leisure, without the trouble of exposing them, as the Scythian Alani did their infirm,

and makes the prices vary here, according to the changes and fluctuations which it produces.

Male servants receive 3l. Sterling, in the half year, the period for which they usually engage; boys, 20s. and 30s.; and maids, 20s. and 25s. Sterling, in the half year. The price of day's labour, to men, is 8d., 10d., and 1s.; and to women 6d., and sometimes 8d. In these, their meat is sometimes included, but in harvest, these wages are given, exclusive of their victuals. The advanced price of labour, is one of the grievances of which farmers chiefly complain. They feel, from experience, that, in point of ease, comfort, and independence, the condition of servants, is more eligible than that of their master. The short term of engagement, wages immoderately high, inspire them with a pride, insolence, and indifference, that would frequently require a meek and patient spirit to brook. Nice in the choice of their food to squeamishness, it must neither fall short, nor exceed that exact proportion of cookery, which their appetites can relish. Care too must be taken, that no offence shall be offered them. They must sleep in the morning as long, and go to bed at night as soon, as their pleasure dictates. Expostulations are opposed by rudeness. If their behaviour is disagreeable, their masters are at liberty to provide themselves with others, against the first term. And seldom do they fail to give scope for this liberty. When the term arrives, then, like birds of passage, they change their residence, or migrate to distant countries. In the present period of their history, in this and the neighbouring countries, they seem to be the only class of subjects who enjoy the most, and abuse the freedom of the English Constitution.

irm, to the frozen blasts of their bleak mountains. Of every tax imposed, as felt from experience, the seller is ever sure to avail himself, by exacting double in the price paid by the purchaser. May not then the question be put, whether Politicians, and the sharp-eyed Argusses of the state, should not make provision against this species of fraud. The rent of land is no doubt considerably augmented, but still not beyond just proportion to its productions. But when all the burdens under which the farmer labours are put together, the exactions of Government, advanced price of labour, augmented rents, short leases, and considerable fines, it must be acknowledged, that the condition of the farmer is far from being eligible; and that what Virgil said of that profession, in his own time, cannot be asserted at present.

O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint \*.

*Village, &c.—Tammoul is the only village within the precincts of this parish. It is inhabited by 37 families, without a single*

\* It is the lot, however, of the generality of this class of men, in most parts of the Highlands of Scotland, to be better acquainted with the reverse of the description. To go into their houses, and take a view of their contents, seats covered with dust, children pale and emaciated, parents ill clothed with care-worn countenances, exhibits a striking picture of Bythinian Phineus, as described by Apollonius Rhodius, whose vituals the harpies continually devoured, and left the miserable owner to hunger and despair.

*Αρναος προπετε χίπην ε'στι γαμφέληι  
Συνχεως άπραγος.*

But in equity, moderation, and humanity, his Grace the Duke of Gordon, is much distinguished from many of the other proprietors in the Highlands, as by his great and opulent fortune. From that rage which now prevails for colonizing the country with sheep, his Grace is happily exempted, and is determined at the expiration of the present leases, to discourage a practice, that, by unrestrained license, would soon depopulate the country of its ancient inhabitants.

a single manufacture; by which such a number of people might be supposed to be able to acquire a subsistence. The Duke of Gordon leaves them at full liberty, each to pursue the occupation most agreeable to them. No monopolies are established here; no restraints upon the industry of the community. All of them sell whisky, and all of them drink it. When disengaged from this business, the women spin yarn, kiss their inamoratos, or dance to the discordant sounds of an old fiddle. The men, when not participating in the amusements of the women, sell small articles of merchandise, or let themselves occasionally for days labour, and by these means earn a scanty subsistence for themselves and families. In moulding human nature, the effects of habit are wonderful. This village, to them, has more than the charms of a Thessalian Tempe. Absent from it, they are seized with the mal de pais; and never did a Laplander long more ardently for his snow-clad mountains, than they ficken to revisit the barren moor of their turf-thatched hovels. Here the Roman Catholic priest has got an elegant meeting-house; and the Protestant clergyman, the reverse of it; yet, to an expiring mode of worship, it would be illiberal to envy this transient superiority, in a country where a succession of ages has witnessed its absurdities. A school is stationed at this village, attended by 40 or 50 little recreants, all promising to be very like their parents \*.

*Antiquities,*

\* In personal respect and fortune, at the head of the inhabitants, must be ranked, Mrs. M'Kenzie, of the best inn, at the sign of the horns. This belle began her career of celebrity, in the accommodating disposition of an English virtue, at the age of 14, in the year 1745. That year saw her in a regiment in Flanders, caressing and caressed. Superior to the little prejudices of her sex, she relinquished the first object of her affection, and attached herself to a noble personage high in the military department. After a campaign or two spent in acquiring a knowledge of man, and the world, Scotland saw her again; b. wear.

*Antiquities, Eminent Men, &c.*—No crosses, no obelisks, no remains of antiquity have been hitherto discovered in this parish. That it was ever visited by the Romans, is not probable. In that expedition, in which Severus lost 50,000 men, as recorded by the abbreviator of Dio Cassius, no vestige exists that any part of his army pursued their rout through the mountains and defiles of Strath-ath-fbin : no marks of encampments are to be seen ; there is no tradition, that either Roman urns, or Roman coins have been ever discovered. In the year 1715, a small fort was erected in the southern extremity, but soon after, it was abandoned, and now lies in ruins \*.

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wearied of the inactivity of rural retirement, she then married, and made her husband enlist in the Royal Highlanders, at the commencement of the war in 1756. With him she navigated the Atlantic, and sailed forth on American ground in quest of adventures, equally prepared to meet her friends, or encounter her enemies, in the fields of Venus or Mars, as occasion offered. At the conclusion of that war, she revisited her native country. After a variety of vicissitudes in Germany, France, Holland, England, Ireland, Scotland, America, and the West Indies, her anchor is now moored on dry land in the village of Tammie. It might be imagined, that such extremes of climate, such discordant modes of living, such ascents and declivities, so many rugged paths, so many severe brushes, as she must have experienced in her progress through life, would have impaired her health, especially when it is considered, that she added 24 children to the aggregate of general births, besides some bastards that stopped short in their passage. Wonderful, however, as it may appear, at this moment she is as fit for her usual active life as ever; and except 2 or 3 grey hairs vegetating from a mole upon one of her cheeks, that formerly set off a high ruddy complexion, she still retains all the apparent freshness and vigour of youth.

\* The great road that passes through the country, to facilitate the march of the troops between Perth and Fort-George, was not made till the year 1754 : and now the stages are so bad, that few travel it. The roads here, in general, are wretched beyond description ; and yet the people, in terms of the statute, are annually called out to work at them. This only can be imputed to their indolence, their want of the necessary implements, and the ignorance, or indifference

As far as tradition can be depended upon, no battle, nor skirmish of consequence, ever happened in this country. The only one mentioned, was fought between Macdonald of the Isles, and an Alexander Stewart, chief of that name. The former, with the greatest part of his men, was killed, and from the carnage of that day, the place is still called Biarnan Mairbh, the moss or field of the dead \*.

If any persons of eminence were ever born in this district, time has swept them from its annals. But, if such there have been, Mr. George Gordon of Foddaleter, is justly entitled to be ranked in the number. This gentleman's abilities rose beyond that mediocrity, which sometimes acquires celebrity without the possession of merit. As a chymist and botanist, his knowledge was considerable ; and this knowledge he applied to the extension of the useful arts. At an early period of life, he discovered, that by a certain preparation, the excrecence of the stones and rocks of the mountains, forms a beautiful

difference of the persons appointed to superintend them. No good roads can be expected according to the present mode of management. To effect this, a commutation is absolutely necessary. On the river Ath-shain, there is a bridge, where it is crossed by the great road. Two other bridges, one at Delvoran, and one at Delnacairn, a little E. of the kirk, would prove essentially useful, as they would facilitate the water-course, which at present is frequently interrupted, and render the communication safe and commodious. Another upon Ailnac at Delnabo, and one upon Conlaas at Ruthven, would also be very necessary.

\* Casual encounters have frequently happened. Manslaughter, murder, and robbery, at a period not very remote, form a distinguishing feature in the character of the Highlanders. But from the detail of such scenes of barbarity, the human mind turns away with horror. One instance, however, it may not be improper to mention : In the year 1575, soon after the establishment of the Reformation in Scotland, a priest who had refused to marry the uncle to the niece, was seized by the ruffian and his party, laid upon a faggot, bound to a stone, and in this manner burnt to death. The remembrance of this atrocious deed is still preserved in the name of the stone, which to this day, is called Clach-an-fhagairt, or the Priest's stone,

beautiful purple dye. It is called in the Gaelic, crotal, from crot, a bunch, and eil, a rock. He erected a manufacture of it at Leith. At that place, in 1769, the inventor died, much regretted; while his mind was teeming with various and original projects for the improvement of his country\*.

## 3. K 2

## Stature,

\* As a contrast to the above gentleman, may be mentioned James an Tuim, or James of the Hill. His real name was Grant, and the nephew of Grant of Carron, a gentleman of property. While a very young man, he committed manslaughter at Elgin. Being rigorously prosecuted, he betook himself to the hills and woods of this country for shelter. From that wandering kind of life to which necessity had reduced him, he soon became noted for address, stratagem, activity, and those talents that are the result of the school of adversity. In consequence of the success attending some of his solitary adventures, a band of desperadoes belonging to this parish, attached themselves to his fortunes; under his conduct, they became the terror of the surrounding countries, till at length embracing a wider range, their lawless depredations drew the attention of the parliament of Scotland. A considerable reward was offered for apprehending him. A gentleman of the name of Macintosh undertook the achievement. By corrupting the landlord of an inn, which James an Tuim frequented, he expected to accomplish his purpose; but an hour or two before the time concerted for the perfidy, such was the intelligence of the freebooter, that he came with his party to the house, forced away the landlord, and hung him to an apple-tree, that marked the march of the contiguous parish. There is a letter still extant at Castle-Grant, written by the Privy Council, thanking the laird of that name for having apprehended him. Imprisoned in the castle of Edinburgh, his wonted presence of mind did not desert him. His wife came to visit him in his confinement, and brought a kit full of ropes with her, covering the surface with butter. By the aid of this machinery, James an Tuim made his escape. He went over to Ireland, where having killed one of the most formidable freebooters of that country, Lord Antrim, as a reward, procured him a pardon from the Crown; and having returned to this country, he died a natural death. Such frequently is the exit of the profligate, as well as the virtuous, with respect to this world. A stanza is still recited in this country, descriptive of his character, according to the standard of excellence that prevailed at the time.

'Ta mo ghradh 's thar gach duinne  
Air Sheimas an Tuim',

Ruidh

*Stature, &c.*—Many have asserted, that in size and stature, the people of modern times, have decreased considerably from that of their ancestors. The calculations of a Mr. Hennan of the French Academy, upon this subject, are curious and eccentric. This gentleman asserts, that Adam measured 123 feet, and Eve 118. To what diminutive dwarfs is the present generation dwindled down, in comparison of these venerable prototypes of the human race. If this account were true, the fable of Tithonus should have been realized long ago; and before this period, we must have been reduced to a size less than that of the grass-hopper. But laying aside the chimeras of conjecture, every old man in this district can recollect the time when many of the inhabitants were stronger, bigger, and more robust than at present \*. In this and the surrounding countries, the mean size may be about 5 feet 7 inches.

Ruidh tu, leumh thu, 's dhansadh tu crinn,  
 'S chuireadh tu treun-fhir, a bharr am buinn,  
 'S cha d' fhailnich riabh d' mhifnach, do  
 Thappa', na d' luim.

"Above all others, James of the Hill is the object of my affection, expert in running, in leaping, and dancing, and in overcoming the brave in wrestling. Thou art the object of my secret affection." Such accomplishments, under the direction of an enlightened reason, might have converted the freebooter into a hero.

\* Some little difference may be accounted for, from the operation of natural causes. When the seasons were more favourable, the population less crowded, when neither a heavy taxation, augmented rents, nor constant labour crushed the body, nor enfeebled the mind; there is no absurdity in supposing, that in such circumstances, men might have attained to a fuller growth and development of stature. The tree planted in a kindly soil, strikes a stronger root, and spreads more verdant branches, than that of the desert, stinted in its vegetable nutriment, and assailed by the blasts from the N. And it is remarkable, that in that rank of society, that is, neither on the one hand, oppressed by poverty, nor on the other, pampered with luxury, the symmetry of the human form, is the most beautiful and perfect.

inches. There are 3 individuals in this parish :  
3. 5 feet 10 inches ; and some of them 5 fe  
there are many who measure 5 feet 8 inches in t

*Means of Improvement.*—From the geography of this country, it will occur to the attentive observer, that the condition of the inhabitants appears to admit of improvement. For the improvements of agriculture, the country is ill calculated. Till the land is enclosed, artificial grass cannot be raised ; at present it would be attended with an expense disproportioned to the circumstances, as the farms are broken and divided, and besides, that to succeed in this branch of husbandry would be obliged to dispense with sheep, at present a commodity. Upon the supposition that such a state of things would happen, as the people are far from the market, and become a drag upon their hands ; and to substitute straw for provender, would not indemnify the expense. Such reasoning may be fallacious, but it is now, and hitherto has determined them to follow the example of their ancestors, to which they have invariably adhered, except in the articles of turnips and potatoes. To raise a considerable quantity, what may be required, is about one month of the annual consumption of the inhabitants.

*Manufactures.*—In this parish, there are 4 manufacturers of these together, will scarce amount to 1000 bushels of meal, and this quantity multiplied by 32, the number of persons to each, will make the whole quantity of viii bushels. This is equal to the quantity of meal in the country 2560 bushels. When this number is compared with the number of individuals, it will be found, that each person has more than 2 bushels of meal to live upon, during the year, than a bushel.

fides, that from the whole quantity of victual, as mentioned above, foreign beggars subtract, at a moderate calculation, 60 bolls. No manufactures of any kind have as yet been established in this country; and the presumption is, that a considerable time must elapse before such an event can happen\*.

*Learned Professions.*—All retainers to the law, except one sheriff-officer and three constables, if they can be classed among that species of men, feel this country rather cold for their residence. Never was the solemn brow of a Justice of Peace seen in the parish of Kirkmichael, before last autumn. At that time, two gentlemen, natives, were installed in the office. Nor is there any danger like the poor shoemaker and tailor, that they will not find sufficient employment. A spirit of litigation, during many years ago, has prevailed among the people. Unfortunately for them, this spirit was originally imported by strangers, persons whom the courtesy of the country dignified with the name of gentlemen, but as much entitled

\* Precluded from an easy communication with the countries around, living in the midst of hills and scattered defiles, at the distance of 40 measured miles from the nearest sea-port, the situation of the people is very unfavourable for such an attempt; besides that, they have few materials to work upon. Their cattle and sheep, the staple commodities, are driven to the S., and sold there, and their wool raw and unwrought, to the low countries of Banff and Moray-shires. Even should that spirit of enterprise rouse them, it could not be of long duration. The difficulty of getting fuel where the centre of the country lies far from mooses, the dearness of provisions where the land seldom produces a sufficiency to support its inhabitants, would dampen their efforts, as they would soon experience the manifest advantage of others over them, in the competition of the distant market. Before the year 1745, that era of innovation in the Highlands, every one almost in this country, like the famous Crusoe, was his own artisan. No later than last summer, a shoemaker from Edinburgh, and a tailor from Dundee, were obliged to desert the country for want of employment. Where there are almost no handcraftsmen, there can be no apprentices. In a country so remote from that element, there can be no seamen.

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unacceptable to the curious reader, to subjoin a passage from "Barclay de Regno, et Regali potestate," describing a singular kind of hunting feast, with which the Earl of Atholl entertained Mary Queen of Scots\*.

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posed to have existed formerly, as it may still be traced in the name of some rivers. The Caledonian sea, according to the Alexandrian geographer, extended from the Mull of Galloway to Faro Head. *Αρχαίος ουρανός τηρετικού πλάνου παλαιόνες διαδικασίες.*

\* "Anno," says he, "1563, Comes Atholius ex regio sanguine principi venationem ingeoti apparatu et magnis sumptibus, optimè atque illustrissimæ reginæ Scotie exhibuit, cui ego tunc adolescens intereci. Cujusmodi venationem regiam nostrales appellare solent. Habebat autem comes ad duobus milliis Scotorum montanorum, quos vos hic Scotos sylvestres appellatis, quibus negotiis dedit ut cerves cogarent ex sylvis et montibus Atholius, Badenachæ, Marris, Moravie, aliisque vicinis regionibus; atque ad locum agerent venationi destinatum. Illi vero, ut sunt valde pernices et expediti, ita dies noctesque concursarunt, ut intra bimensis tempus amplius 2000 cervorum, cum damis et capreis usum in locum compulerint: quos regina, principibusque in velle confidentibus, et ceteris qui una aderant omnibus visendos venandosque proposuerint. Sed ita mihi crede, omnes illi cervi, velut agmine composito incedebant. Hiseret enim, hæreditique semper id animo spectaculum meo, ut ducem unum et rectorem cervos praecantem, quem alii quoquo iret subsequerantur. Is autem, cervus erat forma præstanti et cornibus, ingens qua ex se non mediocres animo caput voluptatem; caput mox et timorem, ubi ad eam Atholius, qui talibus a pœnititia venationibus assueverat, vides inquit ducem illum cornigerum, qui turram præmit? periculum nobis ab illo est. Si enim aliquis eum furor, temorve ab isto montis dorso in hanc planitatem compulerit nostrum fibi quique prespiciat: nemo certe ab injurya tutus erit: quandoquidem ceteri eum sequentur confertim, et viam, fibi ad hanc, qui a tergo est montem nobis proculatus statim aperient. Cujus sententia veritatem aliua illico eventus patescit. Laxatus enim regine jussu atque immisitus in lugum insignis admodum atque ferocius fugientem insequitur, ita cervum illum ductorem exterruit, ut retro unde venerat fugam capesset: cunctique cum eo regressi eruperunt ea parte, qua montanorum corona arctissimè cingebantur, ipsi vero montanis nihil spei, nihil perfugii reliquum fuit, nisi ut strati in erica pronus se proculcari, aut præterire patescerent; quorum nonnullos cervi transiliendo vulnerarunt, alterum quoque aut tertium peremserunt, ut statim reginæ nasciatus fuit. Et vero ita glorificati evasissent omnes, ni homines illi venatus peritissimi ipsos è vestigio secu-

In these mountains, it is asserted by the country people, that there is a small quadruped which they call famh. In summer mornings it issues from its lurking places, emitting a kind of glutinous matter fatal to horses, if they happen to eat of the grass upon which it has been deposited. It is somewhat larger than a mole, of a brownish colour, with a large head disproportionate to its body. From this deformed appearance, and its noxious quality, the word seems to have been transferred to denote a monster, a cruel mischievous person, who, in the Gaelic language, is usually called a famhfhear. Other quadrupeds once indigenous to the Grampian mountains are now extinct, and now known only by name; such as the Torc-neimh, or wild boar \*, an ion, or the bison. Lizards, and serpents, may be frequently met with, and, of the latter, different specieses, some of them striped and variegated, others black and hairy. It is a curious fact, that goats eat serpents, without any prejudice from their bite. Hence, it has passed into a proverb, cleas na gaoithr githeadh na nathrach, "like the goat eating the serpent," importing a querulous temper in the midst of plenty. Incredible as this fact may appear, it may not be improbable. Goats are animals that feed much upon plants and herbs; and upon the supposition that the bite of serpents were more poisonous than what they are known to be in our northern latitudes; yet, by an instinct of nature, goats might be led to have re-

arte quadam extremos ab ipso agmine distraxissent, qui mox regine et nobilium canibus in prædam cessere. Consecuti autem eo die fuerunt circiter 360 cum 5 lupis et capreis aliquot."

\* It has been asserted by some antiquaries, that the bear was never a native of Scotland. It is a fact, however, well vouched, that during the residence of the Romans in Britain, bears were sent from it to Rome and baited there. In an ancient Gaelic Poem ascribed to Ossian, the hero Dermid is said to have been killed by a bear on Beinn Ghieilleann in Perthshire,

course to such plants and herbs as are an antidote against their bite \*.

*Wood,*

\* In confirmation of this supposition, there is a pleasant little story told in elegant Latinity, by Vanier the Jesuit. It will not perhaps be altogether a digression to cite the verses.

*Mustela didicit quondam monstrante colonus  
Tabificos, quid rnta valet serpentis ad ictus,  
Illa reluctantem cum forte lacefferet anguem ;  
Infectis quoties membris lethale venenum  
Hauserat, ad rutam fugiens, tactuque salubri  
Occulte medicans, non legnior ibat in hostem,  
Rusticus excelfo rem demiratus ab agro,  
Avulsis, que sola furt, radicibus herbam  
Abstulit ; exanimis cadit heu ! mustela veneno  
Turgida nam toto rutam dum quererat agro,  
Intima corda subit, jam non medicabile vitus.*

After this casual manner, many of the medicaments of modern pharmacy, have been originally discovered.

There is also a small kind of reptile called bratag, covered with a downy hair, alternately spotted into black and white; if cattle happen to eat it, they generally swell, and sometimes die. It has the same effect upon sheep. The birds in this parish are of the same genus and species with those of the neighbouring countries; such as moorfowl, partridges, wild duck, crows, magpies, wood pigeons, hawks, kites, owls, herons, snipes, king's fisher, swallows, sparrows, blackbird, and thrush. In the higher hills, are ptarmagans. In the steep and abrupt rocks of Glenavon, the eagle builds its eyry; and during the latter end of spring, and beginning of summer, is very destructive to kids, lambs, and fawns. Some of the more adventurous shepherds, watching them at this season of depredation, frequently scale the rugged rocks, where they nestle, and share with their young in the spoil. Till of late years that his sequestered haunts have been disturbed by the intrusion of more numerous flocks of sheep, the black cock, or gallus Scoticanus, was wont to hail the dawn of the vernal morning amidst the heaths of this country. If, like the feathered tribe in Æsop, this fine bird could articulate, he might complain with the Poet, " Nos patriam fugimus, et dulcia linquimus arva." Now he has fled to Strath-Spey, where the numerous and extensive woods afford him a secure retreat. The black cock is well described by Leslie, in his History of Scotland. " Alia avis," says he, " est etiam in his regionibus numerosa, superiore minor [the capercaille].

*Wood, Shrubs, Herbs, &c.*—At a period perhaps not very remote, this country was covered with wood. In the hills and mosses by which it is bordered, fir-root is found in such abundance, that it supplies the inhabitants with a warm and luminous light during the tedious nights of winter. Frequently large trunks of the fir are found at a considerable depth below the surface. Occupied in this employment, many of the poorer people drive the root to the low country, from which they bring meal, iron, salt, and other articles in exchange ; and by this mode of industry, earn a precarious subsistence for themselves and families during the summer seasons. No fir-wood, however, at present exists, except a few scattered trees in the southern extremity, upon the banks of the Avon. The only woods to be seen, are birch and alder, and these covering but a small extent of ground. Till of late, groves of alder, in which were trees of pretty large dimensions, grew, in several places along the banks of the river, but now they are almost cut down, and will soon be totally consumed. These, with a little hazel, thorns, haw-thorns, holly, willows, and mountain-ash, are the only species of wood that still remain. Indigenous shrubs of different kinds grow wild in the hills, that carry fruit, such as wild strawberries,

3 L 2

berries,

coille] hirsutis pedibus, palpebris rubricantibus; nostri gallum nigrum tefquorum appellitant." The caper-coille, once a native here, is now totally extinct, and known only by name. He continued in Strathspey till the year 1745. The last seen in Scotland, was in the woods of Strathglas, about 32 years ago.

If the swallow may be excepted, the cuckoo and lapwing, "tiring its echoes with unvaried cries," are the only migratory birds that pay their annual visits to this country ; and after a short stay, wing their flight to more genial climates. The former seldom appears before the beginning of May, and often its arrival is announced by cold blasts from the N., and showers of snow, which are considered as an auspicious omen of the approaching summer. This temporary rigour of the weather is called by the people, glas-shiontachd na cuach, or the heavy storm of the cuckoo.

berries, two kinds of black berries, and two of red berries. In the beginning of harvest, when these fruits are ripe, they are sought for with avidity by the poorer children, to whom, during the season of their maturity, they supply a portion of food. It is probable, that formerly, if at any time the labours of the chase proved unsuccessful, even the men and women of ancient Caledonia allayed their hunger by these spontaneous productions of nature. Dio Cassius expressly asserts, that our ancestors made use of a vegetable preparation, by which they repressed, for a time, that importunate appetite. Caesar seems to allude to it in his description of the Chara. The soft inflected Chara of the Roman, evidently points to the Còr of the Caledonians. Cor signifies excellent, super-eminent, a very expressive and appropriate name, if it supplied the place of food. It grows a little below the surface of the ground, and spreads laterally into several ramifications, carrying larger or smaller knobs according to the soil, and at irregular distances. In spring it protrudes a small greenish stalk, and in summer bears a beautiful flower, which changing into pods, contains seed, when the root becomes insipid and loses its virtue. The country people, even at present, are wont to steep it among water, where having continued for some days, it becomes a pleasant and nutritive drink. Till of late that the little wood of the kind has been better preserved, the inhabitants used in the month of March to extract a liquid from the bireh, called\* fion-na-uisg, a bheatha, which they considered as very salubrious and conducive to longevity. By an easy metaphor, the name has been transferred to denominate that well known spirit distilled from malt; but a spirit of different effects in its consequence.

It

\* The wine or water of the birch, or the water of life, in allusion to its salubrity.

It may not perhaps be improper to observe, that a tradition prevails among the Highlanders, that together with these, the Picts were acquainted with the art of extracting a delicious beverage from heath, and of an intoxicating quality. Except to make a yellow dye, the uses of this shrub at present, are unknown. But there is a probability, that in August, when it carries a beautiful purple bloom, if it were cropped in sufficient quantities, what is now considered as a fiction, might, by proper skill, be realized; for, at that season, it emits fragrant and honied effluvia\*.

*Language.*

\* The writer of this statistical article is not so well acquainted with the science of botany, as to be able to enumerate the various plants and herbs that grow in this district. He believes few uncommon ones are to be met with, unless among the Grampian mountains, which might afford a rich field of observation to the naturalist. The plant called an dubh-chosach, black footed, or maiden hair, is frequently gathered among the woods and rocks, and used as a tea in asthmatic complaints. Another plant grows in several parts of the parish, and rises on a stalk near 2 feet in height. It spreads into small branches, with sharp-pointed leaves of a pale green, and bears a pretty large berry, red at first, but changing into a livid hue as it ripens. Perhaps it may be the solanum somniferum of the historian Buchanan, by the aid of which, infused in the drink, and mixed with the meat presented by King Duncan to the Danes, he and his generals gained a decisive victory over that barbarous people. This berry is still considered as poisonous by the country people, and they cautiously abstain from it.

Modern scepticism rejects the above passage of the history, and considers it as fictitious; but in ancient times when the wants of the inhabitants were few, gratified from the spontaneous productions of the field, or the beasts of the forest; as they lived almost constantly in the open air, climbing rugged mountains, or plunging into woody dales; they must necessarily acquire a considerable knowledge of plants and herbs, together with their various and specific qualities: besides that agriculture being in a rude state, and many of the present domesticated animals unknown, owing to these causes, the vegetable race would arrive at a higher degree of perfection, and their virtues would consequently operate with more energy and effect. In the list of plants, must be reckoned the seamfrog, or the wild trefoil, in great estimation of old with the Druids. It is still considered as an anodyne in the diseases of cattle: from this circumstance

*Language.*—The common idiom of this country, is a dialect of the ancient Celtic, which in remote ages pervaded the southern and western regions of Europe; and together with the Gothic, divided this quarter of the globe into two radical and distinct languages. Though the latter, owing to the better fortune of the people who spoke it, has prevailed over the former, yet may a considerable portion of the roots of several modern languages be traced to a Celtic original. This, however, is not the place for such discussions. The dialect spoken in this country is growing daily more corrupted, by the admission of Anglicisms, and a number of terms unknown to the simple arts of the ancient Highlanders. Such is the folly or bad taste of the people, that they gratify a preposterous vanity from this kind of innovation. It may therefore be well supposed, that the language is upon the decline; that the harmony of its cadence is gradually changing, and the purity of its structure mixing with foreign idioms. The young people speak Gaelic and English indifferently, and with equal impropriety. Their uncouth articulation of discordant words and jarring sounds, resembles the musick of frogs in a Dutch canal, harsh and disgusting to the Attic ear of a genuine Highlander. Some of the old people speak the Gaelic, and consequently with a degree of propriety. On subjects of common occurrence, they are at no loss for expression in well chosen and natural language. Hence, it may be inferred, that the parish of Kirkmichael spoke the same dialect of the Celtic that is now spoken in Badenoch, making allowance for some little difference, in point of pronunciation.

In

circumstance it has derived its name. Seimh, in the Gaelic, signifying pacifick and soothing. When gathered, it is plucked by the left hand. The person thus employed, must be silent, and never look back till the business be finished.

In terms descriptive of the objects of nature and local situations; in the names of the seasons of the year, of mountains, lakes, brooks, and rivers, their language is as just and appropriate as any in the Highlands of Scotland. There are a few words, however, that would seem peculiar to themselves, but which may be traced to the parent Celtic; some words are used by them metaphorically and not unappropriately applied; of the latter are brath, signifying in the Druidical mythology, fire, particularly the fire of the universal conflagration. Brath is used in this country to denote a high degree of vehemence and passion. Thanig-brath-air—he was seized with rage. When they would express the impossibility of performing any thing; they say, cha neille linn domh a dheaun-eamh—no age of mine can perform it. Line in its primitive acceptation, signifies a generation, but figuratively that period of time in which a generation becomes extinct. Mànè too, in this country, is used to denote good fortune. Ata manè an èisg air—he has the luck of fish. From this word, the manes of the Romans have been originally derived. According to Varro, Manus Deus was a propitious deity with the ancient inhabitants of Latium. Armun is another word in use among the people here, especially in their songs. They borrowed it from the Hebrid Isles. It is of Norwegian extraction, and used as the appellative for a hero, derived from Arminius the celebrated hero of Germany, mentioned by Tacitus. Præliis, says that admirable writer, ambiguus, bello non victus.—caniturque, adhuc barbaras apud gentes. In this country they have still many proverbs, and many of them beautiful, both with respect to language and sentiment. The insertion, however, of one of these, at present, may be sufficient. Eisd, say they, ri gaoth non gleann, gus an traogh na 'huisgachaibh—Listen to the winds of the hills till the waters

waters affluage; importing that passion should be restrained till  
the voice of reason be heard\*.

*Superstitions,*

\* The several branches of the Celtic now existing in Europe, are a venerable monument of antiquity. Independent of the intrinsic excellence, were all the words contained in them digested and formed into a dictionary, it might throw considerable light upon the history of a people, whose manners, customs, arts, and sciences, the revolution of ages has snatched from authentic records. Mr. Gibbon in his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, observes, that there is room for a very interesting work, to lay open the connexion between the language and the manners of a people. Few languages are better calculated for this purpose than the Celtic. Every one acquainted with it, and endued with a taste to relish its beauties, must acknowledge its energy and descriptive powers. Equally adapted to melt, or to rouse, it has a style appropriated to the various passions. Instead of conveying feeble ideas, it exhibits lively pictures. Sonorous and impressive, when the occasion requires, it penetrates the inmost recesses of the soul. When the Greek and Roman languages were in their infancy, the Celtic lent them its aid; for, many words of the two former are obviously derived from the latter. In a period then of such enterprise and improvement as the present, when philosophic curiosity explores the remotest corners of the globe, to enlarge the circle of human knowledge, it is somewhat extraordinary, that a language so ancient, and once so widely diffused, should be consigned to its fate, without one public effort to preserve its relics and transmit them to posterity. To accomplish such a desirable object, would not be unworthy of the patronage of the Highland Society of London. As that respectable body consists of noblemen and gentlemen of independent fortunes, a small share of the superfluity of their affluence, might be successfully employed to arrest what still remains of the Celtic, and retrieve it from oblivion. Several attempts of this kind have been made, but they have been partial and imperfect. There is still wanting a work to embrace the whole, and which cannot be accomplished without the patronage and munificence of the great. If the Empress of Russia has sent learned men to collect and explain the jargons spoken by the various tribes of barbarians inhabiting the inhospitable Caucasus, should not such a liberal example engage the attention, and excite the imitation of a more refined and civilized people? A dictionary of the Gaelic is now in contemplation in Argyllshire, and the letters of its alphabet are divided among an equal number of clergymen; but as these gentlemen are confined to a particular county, and consider their own as the standard dialect of the Highlands, they make little inquiry concerning the modes of speech that prevail in other countries; consequently many pure and genuine Celtic words

must

*Superstitions, Ghosts, Fairies, Genii, &c.*—In a statistical account, even the weaknesses of the human mind may afford some little entertainment. That fear and ignorance incident to a rude state, have always been productive of opinions, rites, and observances which enlightened reason disclaims. But among the vulgar, who have not an opportunity of cultivating this faculty, old prejudices endeared to them by the creed of their ancestors, will long continue to maintain their influence. It may therefore be easily imagined, that this country has its due proportion of that superstition which generally prevails over the Highlands. Unable to account for the cause, they consider the effects of times and seasons, as certain and infallible. The moon in her increase, full growth, and in her wane, are with them the emblems of a rising, flourishing, and declining fortune. At the last period of her revolution, they carefully avoid to engage in any business of importance; but the first and the middle they seize with avidity, presaging the most auspicious issue to their undertakings. Poor Martinus Scriblerus never more anxiously watched the blowing of the west wind to secure an heir to his genius, than the love-sick swain and his nymph for the coming of the new moon to be noosed together in matrimony. Should the planet happen to be at the height of her splendour when the ceremony is performed, their future life will be a scene of festivity, and all its paths strewed over with rose-buds of delight. But when her tapering horns are turned towards the N., passion becomes frost-bound, and seldom thaws till the genial season again approaches. From the moon, they

must escape their researches, and be lost to the language; for this reason it would be necessary that every corner of the Highlands should be ransacked, and the words peculiar to each, collected and explained. It may further be observed, that the Celtic philologist should be well skilled in the Latin and Greek languages, and perhaps in those of France and Italy.

not only draw prognostications of the weather, but according to their creed, also discover future events. There they are dimly pourtrayed, and ingenious illusion never fails in the explanation. The veneration paid to this planet, and the opinion of its influences, are obvious from the meaning still affixed to some words of the Gaelic language. In Druidic mythology, when the circle of the moon was complete, fortune then promised to be the most propitious. Agreeably to this idea, rath, which signifies in Gaelic, a wheel or circle, is transferred to signify fortune. They say, "ata rath air," he is fortunate. The wane, when the circle is diminishing, and consequently unlucky, they call mi-rath. Of one that is unfortunate, they say, "ata mi-rath air." Deas uil, and Tuath uil, are fynonimous expressions, allusive to a circular movement observed in the Druidic worship.

Nor is it to the moon alone that they direct their regards; almost every season of the year claims a share of their superstition: Saimh-theine, or Hallow Eve; Beil-teine, or the first day of May; and Oidhch' Choille, or the first night of January. The rites observed at Saimh-theine, and Beil-teine, are well known, and need not be described. But on the first night of January, they observe, with anxious attention, the disposition of the atmosphere. As it is calm or boisterous; as the wind blows from the S. or the N.; from the E. or the W., they prognosticate the nature of the weather, till the conclusion of the year. The first night of the New Year, when the wind blows from the W., they call dàr-na coille, the night of the fecundation of the trees; and from this circumstance has been derived the name of that night in the Gaelic \* language.

\* The opinion of the genial and fertilizing nature of the west wind, so prevalent in many countries of the Highlands, is one of those opinions that seem to have descended to them from the Druids. Virgil who was born in the Cis-alpine

guage. Their faith in the above signs, is couched in the following verses :

Gaoth a deas, teas is terradh,  
 Gaoth a niar, iasg is bainne,  
 Gaoth a tuath, fuachd is gailinn,  
 Gaoth a near, meas air chrannaibh.

"The wind of the S. will be productive of heat and fertility; the wind of the W. of milk and fish; the wind from the N. of cold and storm; the wind from the E. of fruit on the trees."

The appearance of the first three days of winter is also observed:

Dorach doirauta' dubh,  
 Chead tri la do'n gheamhra;  
 Ge be bheire geil dhe'n chroi,  
 Cha tugainn 's e gu samhra.

3 M 2

" Dark,

alpine Gaul, and from his situation had an opportunity of being well acquainted with the doctrines of that order, has adorned his poetry with several beautiful allusions borrowed from their philosophic system. It was the impression of the same belief with them, of the impregnating power of the air, that influenced his fancy in that fine passage in the Georgicks.

Tum Pater Omnipotens fæcundis iæribus Æther  
 Conjugis in gremium lætæ descendit, et omnes  
 Magnus alit, magno commixta corpore foetus.

In a similar strain of belief, he wrote that passage in the Third Georgick, where he describes the effects of the west wind in a latitude bordering upon the marvellous.

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Ore omnes veris in zephyrum, stant rupibus altis,  
 Exceptaque leves auras : et siue sine ullis  
 Conjagiis, vento gravidæ—— illæ

3

—

"Dark, lurid, and stormy, the first three days of winter ; whoever would despair of the cattle, I would not till summer."

The superstitious regard paid to particular times and seasons, is not more prevalent in this country, than the belief in the existence of ghosts. On the sequestered hill, and in the darksome valley, frequently does the benighted traveller behold the visionary semblance of his departed friend, perhaps of his enemy. The former addresses him in the language of affection ; if danger is approaching, he is warned to prepare against it, or the means of avoiding it disclosed. By the latter, he is attacked with the vehemence of resentment. The inhabitants of this, and the visitant from the other world, engage in furious combat. For a while, the victory is in suspense. At length the ghost is overthrown, and his violence appeased : a few traits of his life upon earth are described. If he stole a ploughshare from his neighbour, the place where it lies concealed is pointed out. His antagonist is requested to restore it to the owner ; and if he fails, punishment is threatened to follow the breach of promise ; for, till restitution be made, so long must the miserable culprit be excluded from the regions of the happy \*.

Not

\* These illusions of fancy operate sometimes with such force, that severals have died in consequence of them ; and some have been deprived of their reason. Fragments of the speeches of ghosts are frequently recited ; and, like the responses of the Grecian oracles, are generally couched in verse, especially the more ancient fragments. Two of these it may not perhaps be improper to cite in the original. The one is an apostrophe from a beloved wife, to soothe the melancholy of a desponding husband,

Na bidhea' (says she) ro ghaol, 's na bidhea' fuath,  
Agad air sluagh innis thréud ;  
Na smuanaigh air na chaidhe bhuisit,  
'S chuid nach teachaидh bhuisit, gun deid.

"Indulge

in ghosts, than that in fairies. The legendary records of fancy, transmitted from age to age, have assigned their mansions to that class of genii, in detached hillocks covered with verdure, situated on the banks of purling brooks, or surrounded by thickets of wood. These hillocks are called sioth-dhunan, abbreviated sioth-anan, from sioth, peace, and dun, a mound. They derive this name from the practice of the Druids, who were wont occasionally to retire to green eminences to administer justice, establish peace, and compose differences between contending parties. As that venerable order taught a Saoghl hal, or world beyond the present, their followers, when they were no more, fondly imagined, that seats, where they exercised a virtue so beneficial to mankind, were still inhabited by them in their disembodied state. In the autumnal season, when the moon shines from a serene sky, often is the wayfaring traveller arrested by the musick of the hills, more melodious than the strains of Orpheus, charming the shades, and restoring his beloved Eurydice to the regions of light.

Cantu commotæ Erebi, de sedibus imis,  
Umbræ ibant tenues.

Often

"Indulge excess neither of joy nor grief toward frail mortals; dwell not on the remembrance of the dead; for these that now are, must soon depart."

The other is a stanza descriptive of the unembodied state, and supposed to be uttered by a ghost, not unlike that of Patroculus in Homer.

Τεχη και μωλος απερ φρας ειν περισταν

Bha mi (says he) fad an cein an roir,  
B' eatrom 's bu luainach mo chéim;  
'N duradan 'n gath na gréine,  
Cha neille connam fein do neart.

"Far distant last night, was my journey; light and bounding were my steps; unsubstantial as the atom in the beam of the sun, is the strength of my form."

Often struck with a more solemn scene, he beholds the visionary hunters engaged in the chase, and pursuing the deer of the clouds, while the hollow rocks in long-sounding echoes reverberate their cries.

*Chorus sequalis Dryadum \**, clamore supremos,  
Implerunt montes †.

The

\* If one were allowed to indulge in conjecture, and reason from analogy, it might be asserted with an appearance of probability, that the dryads and hamadryads of the Romans, were the same with the druids and druideesses of the Celts. It is universally acknowledged, that the dryads of the Greeks and Romans derive their name from the Greek word δρῦς, signifying an oak, and draid, in the Celtic, from datach, or deni, to which the same meaning is affixed. Hamadryad, is evidently derived, from oi', or oigh, a virgin, always asperated after the prefix article of the oblique case in the Celtic. Notwithstanding the progressive increase of knowledge and proportional decay of superstition in the Highlands, these genii are still supposed by many of the people to exist in the woods and sequestered valleys of the mountains, where they frequently appear to the lonely traveller, clothed in green, with dishevelled hair floating over their shoulders, and with faces more blooming than the vermil blush of a summer morning. At night in particular, when fancy assimilates to its own preconceived ideas, every appearance, and every sound, the wandering enthusiast is frequently entertained by their musick, more melodious than he ever before heard. It is curious to observe, how much this agreeable delusion corresponds with the superstitious opinion of the Romans, concerning the same class of genii, represented under different names. The Epicurean Lucretius describes the credulity in the following beautiful verses:

Haec loca capripedes satyros, nymphasque tenere  
Finimeti pingunt, et faunos esse loquuntur;  
Quorum noctivago strepitu, ludoque jocasti  
Adfirmant volgo taciturna silentia rumpi  
Chordarumque sonos fieri, dulceisque querelas  
Tibia quas fundit digitis pulsata casentum :

The fauni are derived from the cubates, or faidhins of the Celts. Faidh is a prophet; hence is derived the Roman word fari, to prophecy.

† There are several now living, who assert that they have seen and heard this aerial hunting; and that they have been suddenly surrounded by visionary forms, more numerous than leaves strewed on the banks of Vallinabroca in

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Near the kirk of this parish, there is a fountain once highly celebrated, and anciently dedicated to St. Michael. Many a patient have its waters restored to health, and many more have attested the efficacy of their virtues. But, as the presiding power is sometimes capricious, and apt to desert his charge, it now lies neglected, choked with weeds, unhoed, and unfrequented. In better days it was not so; for the winged guardian under the semblance of a fly, was never absent from his duty. If the sober matron wished to know

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shipped rivers, and had no divinities appropriated to them. Several ancient authorities, however, might be adduced to evince the contrary. Gildas expressly says, " Ut omittam," talking of the Britons, " montes ipsos, aut colles, aut fluvios, quibus divinus honor a cæco tunc populo cumulabatur." The vulgar in many parts of the Highlands, even at present, not only pay a sacred regard to particular fountains, but are firmly persuaded that certain lakes are inhabited by spirits. In Strathspey, there is a lake still called Loch-nan Spioradan; the lake of spirits. Two of these are supposed frequently to make their appearance, the one under the form of a horse beautifully caparisoned, with golden trappings. With the bit of his bridle, the anti-conjuror of this parish expels jealousy, and cures other maladies of the mind. The other under that of a bull docile as Jupiter wasting Europa over the Hellespont. The former is called, an each uisg, the horse of the water; the latter, an taru uisg, the bull of the water. The mhaidan mhare, or mermaid, is another spirit supposed to reside in the waters. Before the rivers are swelled by heavy rains, she is frequently seen, and all the attributes of a beautiful virgin ascribed to that part of her person that is visible. Her figure is enchanting, and her voice melodious as that of the Syrens. But fair as she is, her appearance never fails to announce some melancholy accident on her native element. It is always considered as a sure prognostication of drowning.

In Celtic mythology to the above named, is added a fourth spirit. When the waters are agitated by a violent current of wind, and streams are swept from their surface and driven before the blast, or whirled in circling eddies aloft in the air, the vulgar, to this day, consider this phenomenon as the effect of the angry spirit operating upon that element. They call it by a very expressive name, the mariach shîne, or the rider of the storm. Anvona is also reckoned as a divinity of the waters, derived from ansadh, a storm or hurricane, a compound from an, a particle of privation, and feadh, serenity, tranquillity.

the issue of her husband's ailment, or the love-sick nymph, that of her languishing swain, they visited the well of St. Michael. Every movement of the sympathetic fly was regarded in silent awe ; and as he appeared cheerful or dejected, the anxious votaries drew their presages ; their breasts vibrated with correspondent emotions. Like the Delai Lama of Thibet, or the King of Great Britain, whom a fiction of the English law supposes never to die, the guardian fly of the well of St. Michael, was believed to be exempted from the laws of mortality. To the eye of ignorance he might sometimes appear dead, but, agreeably to the Druidic system, it was only a transmigration into a similar form, which made little alteration on the real identity \*.

Among the branches into which the moss-grown trunk of superstition divides itself, may be reckoned witchcraft and magic. These, though decayed and withered by time, still retain some faint traces of their ancient verdure. Even at present, witches are supposed, as of old, to ride on broomsticks through the air. In this country, the 12th of May is one of their festivals. On the morning of that day, they are frequently seen dancing on the surface of the water of Avon, brushing the dews of the lawn, and milking cows in their fold. Any uncommon sickness is generally attributed to their demoniacal practices. They make fields barren or fer-

\* Not later than a fortnight ago, the writer of this account was much entertained, to hear an old man lamenting with regret, the degeneracy of the times ; particularly the contempt in which objects of former veneration were held by the unthinking crowd. If the infirmities of years, and the distance of his residence did not prevent him, he would still pay his devotional visits to the well of St. Michael. He would clear the bed of its ooze, open a passage for the streamlet, plant the borders with fragrant flowers ; and once more, as in the days of youth, enjoy the pleasure of seeing the guardian fly skim in sportive circles over the bubbling wave, and with its little proboscis, imbibe the Panocean dews.

tile, raise or still whirlwinds, give or take away milk at pleasure. The force of their incantations is not to be resisted, and extends even to the moon in the midst of her aerial career. It is the good fortune, however, of this country to be provided with an anti-conjurer that defeats both them and their sable patron in their combined efforts. His fame is widely diffused, and wherever he goes, *crescit eundo*. If the spouse is jealous of her husband, the anti-conjurer is consulted to restore the affections of his bewitched heart. If a near connexion lies confined to the bed of sickness, it is in vain to expect relief without the balsamic medicine of the anti-conjurer. If a person happens to be deprived of his senses, the deranged cells of the brain must be adjusted by the magic charms of the anti-conjurer. If a farmer loses his cattle, the houses must be purified with water sprinkled by him. In searching for the latent mischief, this gentleman never fails to find little parcels of heterogeneous ingredients lurking in the walls, consisting of the legs of mice, and the wings of bats; all the work of the witches. Few things seem too arduous for his abilities; and though, like Paracelsus, he has not as yet boasted of having discovered the Philosopher's stone; yet, by the power of his occult science, he still attracts a little of their gold from the pockets where it lodges; and in this way makes a shift to acquire a subsistence for himself and family. What Dryden said of Shakespear, may, with propriety, be applied to him:

“ Shakespear's magic could not copied be ;  
“ Within that circle none durst move but he.”

If the short limits of a statistical essay permitted, more justice might be done to this singular character, but, *ex pede Herculem;*

*Hercules*; the outlines already given, will enable fancy to draw the portrait.

*Dress*.—Since the year 1745, there is a considerable change on the dress of the people of this district. By a singular kind of policy, as if rebellion lurked in the shape and colour of a coat, at the above period, the ancient dress was proscribed, and none durst wear it without running the risk of a rigorous prosecution. It was consequently superseded by the Low Country dress. To the ancient braccae, or truish\* and belted plaid, succeeded strait breeches, and an awkward coat of a uniform colour; sometimes a long surtout dangling down to the heels, encumbering the freedom of motion. The barbarous policy of Edward the First, did not more effectually destroy the spirit of the indignant Welsh, by the murder of their bards, than the prohibition of their ancient garb, that of the poor Highlanders. In the enthusiasm of patriotism, Mr. Fraser of Lovat got the prohibitory act repealed, in order, according to his own emphatic words, “to divert the minds of the people from Transatlantic notions.” Let metaphysicians, if they choose, trace the connexion. But, though this respectable gentleman, with the view of making them good subjects, procured liberty to the Highlanders of exposing their naked posteriors to the north wind, on their bleak mountains, few have availed themselves of the privilege. Habit reconciles them to the present, and they seem to have no desire of resuming their ancient garb. The blue bonnet, however, with the exception of some round hats, still maintains its ground. Since the year 1745, the women too, like the men, have altered considerably in their apparel. Before that period, they wore sometimes white blankets covering

\* Truish, from truis, or drap.

their heads, sometimes their shoulders, drawn forward by their hands, surrounded on each side by a fold. These, as fashion varied, were succeeded by barred plaids, or blankets, where different colours blended, crossing each other at right angles, somewhat distant, and bearing a square space in the middle. Wearied of barred plaids, they betook themselves to Stirling ones, and now duffle cardinals begin to have the ascendant. Formerly their hair flowed in easy ringlets over their shoulders; not many years ago, it was bound behind into a cue, now it spreads into a protuberance on the forehead, supported by cushions; sometimes, it is plain, and split in the middle. But who can describe the caprice of female ornament more various than the changes of the moon !

*Manner of Living.*—Not more than 50 years ago, their mode of living in this country was different from what it is at present. Places that were at that time waste, are now planted with inhabitants. And though sheep, upon the whole, be more numerous than formerly; yet they are chiefly the property of those who occupy the out-skirts, and to whom the hills and glens lie more convenient. In the centrical places, the farms are enlarged, at least as much as the nature of the ground can admit; consequently the smaller tenants are fewer, and live less at their ease: but previous to the above period, even cottagers kept a few sheep, because the hill pasture was a common, and there were few of any description who did not occasionally feed upon flesh. But at present, unless it be at Christmas, or when any little festivals are celebrated, the fold is kept sacred for the market, in order to make money to supply the exigencies of the family, and satisfy the many demands to which it is exposed, from bad seasons, precarious crops, and increasing taxes: besides that, the luxury of the times

other improvements, a portion of factitious wants, which must be gratified. Fifty years ago, they used burnt plates of whisky, instead of that spirit, which must now be diluted with warm water, and sweetened with sugar. It must, however, be acknowledged, that it is seldom they indulge in this beverage; they oftener drink it raw and unmixed. It may easily be supposed that a plant of such universal consumption as tea, should not be unknown to the people of this country. Few of the better families are without it, though sparingly used; and some of the old women, even when they cannot afford sugar, infuse it in boiling water, and drink it for their headaches. These headaches frequently return, but fortunately by the aid of the grand elixir, they are seldom of long duration.

*Character, &c.*—The character of a people never fails to change with their changing condition. In contemplating them at the extreme points of a period of 70 or 80 years, it would be as difficult to recognise their identity, as that of Sir John Cutler's worsted stockings, when scarcely an atom of the original texture remained. Not further removed than the more distant of these extremes, the people of this country were generous and hospitable. If they were occasionally subject to the foibles, they possessed the virtues of genuine Highlanders. If they resented injuries with vehemence and passion, their breasts felt the glow of affection and friendship. Attached to their chieftain, they followed his standard wherever it led; and never shrunk from danger in the defence of his cause: Connected with the freebooters of Lochaber, they imbibed no inconsiderable portion of their spirit and manners: Address and stratagem marked their enterprises: Active abroad

broad, they were indolent at home: Addicted to depredation, they neglected the arts of industry and agriculture: Disengaged from those pursuits that require vigour and exertion, they passed the vacant hour in social enjoyment, in song and festivity, and in listening to the tale of other years: Rude in their manners, their bosoms frequently opened to the warm impressions of a disinterested benevolence. The indigent and the stranger found them always ready to sympathize with their distresses. What Paul the Deacon, in his barbarous Latin, said of the Lombards of Italy, might be applied to them:

*Terribilis facies, hirsutaque barba,  
Sed corda benigna fuerunt \**.

But, in contemplating the nearer extreme of the above period, a different picture appears. The spirit of commerce which, in a certain degree has pervaded every corner of the Highlands, with its natural concomitants, avarice and selfishness, has penetrated hither. In the private views of the individual, the interests of the community are disregarded. Cunning has supplanted sincerity, and dissimulation candour: Profession supplies the place of reality, and flattery is used as a lure to betray the unwary. Obligations are rewarded by ingratitude; and when the favour is past, the benefit is no longer remembered. Opposed to interest, promises cease to be binding; and the most successful in the arts of deception acquires the esteem of uncommon merit and abilities. It may therefore be supposed, that, in a field where the prize is so attractive,

\* A dreadful countenance, with rough beards, but with hearts benevolent.

active, there will be many candidates. To agree of ambition, it must be acknowledged, in their bias, that they have had models of imitation of the doctrines of a Machiavel. Unfortunate these models have been strangers, and of that rank have always the most powerful influence in making the vulgar.

Such are the causes to which it must be imputed so little discrimination to be observed in the people of this country; for, where one object the means of attainment will be generally uniformed between barbarism and civilization, the mind strongly influenced by virtue, as it is attracted by the vice. In this view, however, they are far from their neighbours. From a combination particularly high taxation, and increasing comm and selfishness must necessarily constitute a prominent in the character of many. At the same time, it may be found the usual proportion of persons of a different, conspicuous for honour and integrity, huma volent, just and upright in their transactions.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It has been observed that the central parts of this country lie at a considerable distance from ports, which is yearly diminishing in proportion to the increase of population. The natural woods are every where decaying, the number of sheep increasing, when the Highlands must sensibly feel the want of procuring the necessary accommodation. This, to anticipate such an event, is an object that peculiarly attracts the attention of proprietors. There are few of them in the Highlands, who are not possessed of

tracks of moor and hill. In this district, there are at least 18,000 acres that lie barren, and at present of little value. This space of ground laid under fir, would contain, at a moderate calculation, 80,000,000 plants, exclusive of the forest of Glenavon, and without much injury to the pasture. By converting the waste ground to this purpose, the rent to the proprietors would increase, while the farmer would be supplied in fuel, and materials for building. Plantations of fir so extensive, may appear an arduous undertaking ; but by giving farmers long leases, indemnifying them at removal, appropriating a portion of the rent for the purpose, and various methods that might be devised, it might be successfully carried into execution ; and when accomplished, would be worthy of a great and patriotic proprietor. It has been asserted, that moss grows ; but this is a fallacy too obvious to be credited. Being the production of wood and moisture, it is well known from experience, that when the component ingredients are once exhausted, the substance itself cannot be reproduced. Upon the formation of moss, there is a curious fact mentioned by Lord Cromarty, and recorded in the 5th volume of the Abridgement of the Philosophical Transactions \*.

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\* In the year 1691, his lordship being then 19 years of age, he saw a place in the parish of Lochbroom, covered over with a firm standing wood, which was so old, that not only the trees had no green leaves, but the bark was totally thrown off, which he was there informed, by the old people, was the universal manner in which fir wood terminated ; and that in 20 or 30 years the trees would cast themselves up by the roots. About 15 years afterwards, he had occasion to travel that way, and observed that there was not a tree, nor the appearance of a root, of any of them ; but that, in their place, the whole plain where the wood stood, was covered with a flat green moss, or morass : and, asking the country people what was become of the wood, he was answered that no one had been at the trouble of carrying it away, but that it had been overturned by the wind ; that the trees lay thick over one another ; and that

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failing panegyrists of the times that are elapsed. Mr. Hume, and the Abbé du Bois, are of a different opinion, and assert, that in ancient times, the seasons were colder than at present, but the facts adduced by these respectable writers are too vague and remote to overthrow the experience of feeling \*.

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\* William the Norman, after the conquest of England, surveyed that country, and committed the admeasurement to *Doomsday Book*, designed to be a permanent record of the nature and value of the soil; that gradation of offices, and those institutions which he embraced in his political scheme. The imitation of a model that might be so conducive to promote the welfare of the great body of the people employed in agriculture, should perhaps, with that variation required by circumstances, be in some measure adopted by all the proprietors in Scotland. It is well known that the value of land must rise or fall, according to the flourishing or declining condition of the state. Reason dictates that it is by this criterion the rents of a landlord ought to be regulated. When at a certain term lands are to be let, and exposed, as it were to a public sale, the highest bidder to have the preference, it must occur, that in such a collision of passions, and jarring interests, as must necessarily arise upon those occasions, the desperate and unprincipled will frequently be preferred to the honest and industrious; besides that, the rents of some farms will be low and moderate, while that of others will be high and exorbitant. To prevent, therefore, this inequality, and to extend distributive justice to every individual, proprietors should not only survey their properties, but also affix a value to the farms, according to the value of the productions at the time, and the probable continuance of that value. Every circumstance of convenience and inconvenience, whether with regard to fuel, the nature of the soil, and the condition of the farm, should likewise be taken under consideration, and a rent proportionate affixed. Judicious men acquainted with the place, and obliged, by proper functions, to observe a strict impartiality, would perhaps be the most proper to accomplish such a desirable object. These hints may appear chimeral, but there would be no harm in the experiment; and, if practicable, might prove highly advantageous, both to the proprietor and tenant, by promoting their reciprocal interests. Such a plan, without having recourse to the levelling principle of modern innovations, might have a happy tendency in diffusing the comforts of life more equally, and at the same time, maintain that distinction of ranks so necessary to the existence of society.

## NUMBER XXXIII.

## UNITED PARISHES OF SADDLE AND SKIPNESS.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLL, PRESBYTERY OF KINTYRE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE MACLIESH.**Name, Extent, General Appearance, Agriculture, &c.*

IN the year 1753, the old parishes of Saddel and Skipness, with a large tract of country between them, were disjoined from the parishes of Killean and Kilcalmonel, and erected into an united parish. It retains its ancient names. Saddel seems to be derived from its principal object the monastery, signifying the plain of the priests, by an easy contraction of the word Sagairt, i. e. priest, and dail, a plain. The other name Skipness, is evidently from the Norse language, and signifies ship-point, alluding probably to its being a station of the Danish fleet, when this part of the kingdom was under their dominion. This parish is situated on the east coast of the peninsula of Kintyre. It extends about 25 miles in length, and 2 miles mean breadth. The face of the country is, in

general, rough and hilly, and better adapted to pasture than tillage. The hills are neither steep, barren, nor rocky, but rise gradually from the sea-shore, with an easy ascent, are flat at the heights, and covered with heath, and grass intermixed, so that cattle, as well as sheep, graze upon them even in winter. The arable land on the declivities is not of a good quality, being a mixture of moss, clay, and gravel, or till. But the low ground near the shore, and in the glens, is warm and fertile. It is remarkable, that all the glens run in the same direction from N. W. to S. E., and are covered near the bottom or lower ends with flat points jetting into the sea, and forming beautiful bays. This happy exposure gives them the benefit of the early sun, and during the whole day; a circumstance extremely favourable to vegetation. During the summer and autumn, the degree of heat in these glens is very great, but they are frequently refreshed with drizzling rains and flying showers; the good effects of which, constantly follow; for, though the sowing here be later two weeks or more than in the uplands, yet the harvest is sooner over, and the grain much heartier and better filled. For this reason, among others, all the farms (except a few moor farms) are set off so as to have a share of hill and dale, with access to the shore. The farm-houses are, in general, very decent, particularly those lately built, of which there is a great number, and are judiciously placed near the middle of the grounds, so as to have the best land between them and the shore, on which they lay out all their dung and what sea-weed they can find, as fittest for their principal crops, bear, potatoes, pease, beans, &c. and is under a perpetual rotation of crops. This division of the farm is called the Wintertown. Next above the farm-readings, are the Oatfields, alternately under oats, pasture, and separated from the hill or moor by a head-wall. These outfields are subdivided into small enclosures with earthen

teaching, rest, and watering were the only means of improvement. The two last are still used, but the former is given up, as being supposed prejudicial to the milk cows. As a great part of the parish has not yet been measured, it is impossible to ascertain with any precision, the number of acres, or the proportion between arable and pasture; but the length and breadth being given, a tolerable calculation may be made of the superficial contents of the whole parish.

There are 94 merk-lands in the parish. A merk-land is supposed to be as much as one plough can manage. But, in a Highland country, it is evident this division must be very vague, and of very different value, according to the difference of the soil, and the proportion of arable and grass contained in it \*.

*Population.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population

\* The origin of this denomination of lands is, by some, referred to a very distant era, and classed with the famous Alpinian laws. It is now of little consequence, being neither uniform nor universal. I know nothing regulated by it, except perhaps, cefs, teinds, and some other public burdens. The rent is fixed by a sober rule, the number of bulls sowing, and founms of cattle of all kinds it will maintain. One cow makes a founm, a horse two; ten sheep (and in some places fewer) are considered as a founm. It is evident, that in a country like this, so infinitely diversified as to the proportions as well as quality of both arable and grass in every farm, with the accidental variations of stock arising from the rise and fall of markets, and the consequent preference of one kind of flock to another, which so frequently happens, no certain account can be given of the total amount of stock in the parish, neither could it answer any valuable purpose, and by some, might be considered as an invidious inquiry. Let it suffice to observe, that the average stock of a merk-land is 4 horses, 12 milk cows, with their followers, and 40 sheep, with theirs. The average of sowing is, 15 bolls oats, 1 boll bear, 4 bolls potatoes. From this calculation, however, which is applicable only to such farms as are in the hands of common tenants, must be excepted, such lands as are in the natural possession of the proprietors, and under proper cultivation, and some others under stocks of sheep and black cattle.

pulation in 1755, was 1369. The number of souls in the parish, 25 years ago, was 1200; in July last (1792) 1341 males 719; females 622. Under 10—389; from 10 to 20—305; from 20 to 30—203; from 30 to 40—181; from 40 to 50—98; from 50 to 60—86; from 60 to 70—51; from 70 to 80—22; from 80 to 90—5; from 90 to 100—0; above 100—1. Increase in 25 years, notwithstanding considerable emigrations formerly to America, and lately to the Low Country, is 141.—*N.B.* A list of servants is not given separately, there being few of them who are not natives, and these are taken in their own, or parents families, and included in the above table.

The number of proprietors is 7; 3 residing, 3 not residing, and 1 occasionally. There are 6 tenants, who pay from 50 l. to 100 l.; all the rest have farms from 30 l. to 5 l.; many of these last are cottagers and day-labourers. There are 4 millers, 6 tailors, 8 shoemakers, 9 weavers, 3 wrights, 3 coopers, 1 boat-carpenter. Exclusive of the farming business, most of the small farmers, and almost all the young men, are employed in the herring-fishing, during the season; and the women in spinning, &c.

*Rent.*—The valued rent is 312 l. 17 s. 8 d. Sterling: a great part of the parish being in the possession of the proprietors, the present rent cannot be exactly known, but it has risen very considerably within these 25 years, and is still rising.

*Roads.*—The great line from Inverary to Campbeltown, and from thence to south end of Kintyre, where there is a stated ferry to Ireland, of about 7 leagues only, runs through the whole length of this parish: And though there is another line on the west side of the country, yet it must be admitted, that this line is preferable in many respects. It is equally short.

hort, and much more pleasant, from the great variety of  
beautiful objects which present themselves successively to tra-  
vellers, as they journey either along a delightful bank within  
view of the sea, or are suddenly sunk into pleasant woods  
and vallies, where every sense is entertained, and the mind is  
relieved from that disgusting sameness, which in open extend-  
ed plains, fatigues the traveller more than the length of the  
road. The roads here are very good, and kept in good re-  
pair; they were made partly by the statute-work, and partly  
by the voluntary contributions of the gentlemen; but it was  
found necessary to apply for an act of parliament for imposing  
a stent, in order to finish and keep them in repair. It is but  
justice to the gentlemen of this country, to observe, that they  
exerted themselves in a very spirited manner to carry on this  
great improvement of roads, not only in their own district,  
but also in other parts of the shire, particularly Sha'-goil, an  
undertaking of such magnitude, expense, and utility to the  
publick, that it does the highest honour to his Grace the  
Duke of Argyll, and the gentlemen of the shire, in general,  
who contributed so liberally to the completion of it.

*Rivers and Bridges.*—There are 7 large, and 12 small ri-  
vers or waters crossing the line of road, which require bridges  
over them. Only 3 large, and 8 small bridges are built, of  
course 4 large bridges are still wanted, estimated *in cumulo*, at  
350 l., and 4 small bridges estimated at 50 l., in all 400 l.  
A sum by much too heavy for a few individuals, however  
generous they may be, or well disposed to promote the in-  
terest of the parish and the publick, especially in the present  
state of their funds, exhausted by former exertions, with the  
annual burden of keeping the road in repair, and building  
small bridges; so that unless some publick aid is given them,  
it is much to be feared this parish must long lie under the  
many

many losses and inconveniences arising from the want of bridges over these rapid and dangerous rivers. This circumstance has often produced very serious and distressing effects, particularly in the case of the post, surgeons called to the sick, the minister of the parish, and the parishioners in getting to and from the church, and in travelling about their affairs, marriages, christenings, burials, markets, mills, smithies, &c. The commissioners of supply, and surveyors of roads were so sensible of these dangers and inconveniences, that they have had recourse to an expedient for removing them, which, though inadequate, was all they had in their power, namely, to put large planks across those waters which want bridges, for the security of foot-travellers; yet this is but partial relief, since some times the speats or floods are so high and rapid, that the strongest horse cannot cross them.

*Herring Fishery.*—This is a most important object. It is the principal occupation and chief source of the industry and maintenance of a considerable number of the inhabitants. The parish furnishes about 30 small wherries, from 6 to 10 tons, and 60 row-boats; these, at 2 men to a wherry, and 4 men to a boat, employ 300 men. The wherries are for carrying the herrings to market, and the small boats for fishing them; but both are sometimes promiscuously employed. At the end of a good fishing season, they will divide about 100 l. Sterling, i. e. 20 l. to each man, and 20 l. for the owner of the boat; but the average may be about 6 l. to such as give only a partial attendance on the fishing (being in harvest obliged to secure their crop, fuel, &c.), and from 10 l. to 15 l. to those who prosecute the fishing during the whole season, which is generally from the beginning of June to Christmas. The herring fishery has not totally failed any one year for these last 20 or 30 years, though some seasons have great-

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ly exceeded others in the quantity. It is observed, that the herrings caught here, and in the Lochs Fine, Long, &c. are of a richer and more delicate taste, than those caught either in the Western Isles, or the coast of Ireland. Though the latter are much larger, they have a strong taste, and answer best for exportation to hot climates. It is to be regretted, that Government, and the societies established for such beneficial purposes, have not paid more attention to this branch of trade, in which, exclusive of busses, who have a bounty, so many useful hands are yearly employed, and from which so much advantage might be derived. The chief thing wanted for this purpose is; to have harbours disposed in proper places, and at convenient distances along the coast. There are several small bays and creeks, half formed by nature, where harbours, sufficient for the fleet, might be made without any enormous expense. There are three places on this coast, I mean the points of Carradell, Skipness, and Sunadale, the two former near the extremities of the usual fishing ground, and the last near the centre, which, on the slightest survey, would occur to any person as exceedingly well adapted for principal harbours, to accommodate vessels from 15 to 30 tons; several such attend every season, for the purpose of salting herrings, or carrying them fresh to the red-herring houses in Liverpool, Isle of Man, &c. and to other markets. Vessels of this description, are of very great advantage to the fishery, in keeping up the prices, and deserve to have some attention paid to their security. Yet, the small fishing-boats being of still greater consequence, ought to be encouraged, and accommodated with places of safety. There is a great variety of small creeks, which a moderate sum would clear and fit for their reception. From 200 to 300 boats have been frequently seen here of an evening, and all of them dispersed before morning, for want of these accommodations,

modations; and obliged to run from the fishing grounds to Tarbert, Lochaline, the Kyles of Bute, Lochranay, Campbeltown, and under the lee of head-lands and points, being their only shift to save their lives. Though there are some natural harbours formed by the mouths of the rivers, yet these are often dangerous, from shifting or filling with sand, sometimes inaccessible to vessels of 15 or 20 tons; and, exclusive of these disadvantages, have not capacity to receive any considerable number \*.

*State of Improvement.*—From the general description given of the face of the parish, it appears, that though it is better calculated for grazing than agriculture, yet, that a considerable part of the low grounds is capable of cultivation, and fit to produce the most valuable crops. On the estates of Saddel,

\* It is here to be observed, that besides the advantages of these three places above mentioned, for principal harbours, from their local situation with respect to one another, and the fishing grounds, there are others peculiar to them, above any other stations along the coast. The country near them is better adapted for crops, and consequently more populous. And the proprietors have of late divided some large farms into small plots, and built houses on them for the accommodation of fishers and tradesmen; so that if a few harbours were once made, and the above accommodations of land, houses, &c. somewhat more extended (which the proprietors will find it their interest to do), the herring fishery on this coast would flourish, to the great advantage of individuals, the publick, and Government. More praise is due to those, who lay out their time, their talents, their money, or their influence, for promoting these and such other plans of real utility, than to all the race of politicians put together. It is but justice, therefore, here to add, that, with the laudable view of promoting the improvement of this valuable branch of our trade, his Grace the Duke of Argyll, and another gentleman (Mr. Campbell of Carradell), who has paid great attention to the herring fishery for a series of years, and is supposed to have superior skill in every thing which concerns it, have got red-herring houses built on their estates here, in which a very considerable quantity of red-herrings have been manufactured, and for which there has been a great demand both at home and abroad.

tel, Carradell, and Skipness, every species of improvement has been carried on to a high degree of melioration. From the mansion-houses, the eye is entertained with an extensive prospect of regular enclosures, sheets of verdant pasture, natural woods and clumps of planted trees, with all the variety of crops, which systematical cultivation, carried on with a liberal hand and persevering attention, may be supposed to produce, in a soil naturally adapted for such valuable productions. But with these, and a few other exceptions, the rest of the arable land in the parish, is in the same state of non-improvement with every country under similar disadvantages. The chief obstructions to improvement in agriculture, hitherto, have been the want of manure, and fuel; or, at least, the too high expense of money and time necessary for procuring them. There is no kind of manure in this parish, except dung and sea-weed, no limestone nor marl being yet discovered in it; and the inhabitants have been long subjected to many inconveniences as to their fuel. Turf or peats were their only fuel: they are found in the hills; but the cutting, with the whole expensive process of drying and carrying them home, used to occupy the farmer and his whole family for a great part of the summer season; and in a wet season, he ran the dreadful risk of wanting fire to dress his victuals, or warm him during the inclemency of winter. This was the deplorable situation of the people here, and over all the Highlands, two years ago, and is in a great measure so, even this season (1793). It is very evident, that neither agriculture (that surest and most permanent source of national wealth), nor any manufactures, can ever be carried on to any purpose, in a country without manure and without fuel \*.

\* But now that the duty on coals carried coastways is taken off, it will save the farmer a great deal of time and labour, and enable him to pay proper attention

*Disadvantages.*—But there are other obstructions to improvement, which still prevail too much, and which it would be the interest of landlords and farmers to have removed: These arise from too short leases; having a great number of small tenants, and their houses collected together in the centre of the farm; payment of many small items, and presentation of services to the proprietor, to mills, smithies, &c. which, as being prejudicial, are in most places laid aside.

*Antiquities.*—The abbey of Saddel, a monastery of the Cistercian order, was begun by Somerled, Lord of Kintyre, and the Isles (who died in 1163), and finished by his son Reginald. It was built in the form of a cross. The length from E. to W., is about 136 feet, by 24 over walls, and the transept from N. to S., about 78 feet, by 24. The S. end of the transept was extended 58 feet more, and made the side of a square, which served for cloisters. There is very little of the church or cloisters now standing.—Near the point of Skipness, stands the castle of that name. Its appearance is very noble. It can scarcely, even at this day, be called a ruin, though it must be a structure of great antiquity, being probably built by the Danes. It is somewhat singular, and much to be regretted,

tention to his farm. The time he formerly spent about his peats, he may now lay out in carrying home coal and limestone. The great number of boats in the parish, with its vicinity to Clyde and Ayrshire, are circumstances in favour of the farmer, both for exporting what he can spare of his produce, and getting home coal and limestone in return, and this will open a new source of employment for many hands, who, in the late state of non-improvement, were often idle, except in the herring-fishing season. What pity was it then to deprive the poor industrious people, for so long a period, of such a resource for bettering their condition in so many respects, for the sake of a duty trifling to Government, but highly impolitic, when considered in all its train of calamitous consequences, to the families of many useful and deserving subjects!

greeted, that no mention is made in the histories of the times  
of such a magnificent building \*.

*Schools,*

\* It is built with a cement, apparently made up of a composition of lime sea-shell, and earth of a dunnish colour, so exceedingly firm, that it were easier to quarry a whin-rock. Some parts of the walls seem to be of a later date than others, being thinner and in a different style of architecture. The outer wall is 7 feet thick, 33 feet in height, and 450 feet in length, in all, but none of the sides are exactly of the same length. It has two projections of 13 feet square over walls, one at the S. E. corner, and the other at the N. W. corner, still called *Tür-an-t'agairt*, or the Priest's Tower, close by which, there was a small chapel or oratory. At the N. E. corner, and within the outer wall, there is a large tower or citadel, considerably higher than the outer wall, which is kept in good repair by the present proprietor, who roofed and floored it, so as to make exceeding good lodgings. Below, there are excellent vaulted cellars; the stairs to the several apartments above, run through the wall, and are far from being bad, though rather narrow, according to the taste of the times. The entry to it was secured by a wall stretching across the area to the N. W. side of the outer wall, with a large gate in the middle: This gate, now partly taken down, as well as the two outer or principal gates, were in the Gothic style. The area within this cross wall, was probably used as barracks, now converted into a handsome court of offices with great propriety. These, with other improvements, both within and without the castle, have a very pleasing effect; exhibiting to the eye at one view, modern elegance and ancient grandeur happily combined together.

Upon almost every point or projection along the coast, there are to be seen small Danish forts; the most considerable is, the castle of Aird at Carradell, it is situated on a high rock close by the sea, on which side it is inaccessible, and secured on the land side by a deep broad ditch. Nothing remains but a part of the outer wall, built with mud, and above 6 feet thick, and 12 feet high, where entire. It is 240 feet long, and 72 broad. Near this, at the extremity of the point of land, which forms the fine bay of Carradell, there is a small island, in the centre of which is to be seen, the foundations of a vitrified wall of an elliptical form, surrounding about a rood of ground. The lava or cement is of a dark gray colour; but of what materials, and by what process it was made, is not easily determined. There is no tradition to throw any light on this puzzling monument of antiquity. Its insular sequestered situation, and particularly its form, which was peculiar to the ancient Druids, and a large opening on the E. toward the rising sun, would tempt one to conjecture that it was built by that venerable order, as a place of retreat and security, when they fell into disgrace,

*Schools, Poor.*—There is no parochial school (properly so called) in this parish, and there is only one society school for reading, &c. at 5*l.*, and another for knitting, &c. at 6*l.*, both placed at Skipness. There are two annuities left to the former, one of 2*l.* 10*s.* Sterling, by Daniel Campbell, Esq. of Shawfield; and the other of 5*l.* left to it by Mrs. Ann Campbell, relief of Captain Colin Campbell of Skipness; both which annuities are regularly paid. The parish would require three other schools at least; one in the centre, one at Carradell, and one in Glensaddel \*.

Such is the modesty of the poor in this parish, and their aversion to begging, that the session list seldom exceeds 12, except

disgrace, and had drawn upon themselves the displeasure of the race of Fingal, by assuming a greater degree of power, than these haughty heroes were willing to allow them. As there is a similar building in the island of Bute, and other places, it is hoped a more satisfactory account may be obtained.

\* Application was made by memorial, about 15 years ago, to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, representing the state of the poor people for want of schools, and craving the aid of the Society. No relief was then granted, on this ground, that there was no parochial school in the parish. This is still the case, for this obvious reason, that one parochial school would be of little benefit in this parish, on account of its great length and comparative narrowness, intersected by so many rapid and dangerous rivers. But a plan much better adapted to the purposes of education and general advantage, was adopted in lieu of it, namely, to divide the parish into convenient districts, with a small school in each; the inhabitants contributing a salary to the teacher, which salary amounted considerably above what they could legally, or reasonably be assessed in. These salaries, however, though not very considerable, being too heavy a burden on the poorer sort, who are by far the greatest number, these schools were frequently discontinued, and in some districts dropped altogether. But it is now to be hoped, that the survey lately made by a Reverend Gentleman, will show the Society the propriety of erecting more schools in this parish, for the relief of the poor, encouragement of teachers, and the interest of religion. The landed interest in the parish, must certainly consider it as a right measure to concur with the Society, in promoting a scheme, not only benevolent in its nature, but attended with many advantages to themselves. "He that lendeth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord."

except in the summer season, and in times of great scarcity. They are supported partly by the collections in church, private charities, and their own industry; very few of them beg from door to door. But the parish is much harrassed with rolling beggars from Ireland, the Highland Isles, the Low Country, and from the northern parts of Scotland.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There are two churches, neither of them old, being built since the erection 1753; they are 13 miles distant from each other, and about 6 miles from the extremities; they are in good repair, but still unenclosed, and without bells, and other conveniences necessary for the clergyman, when performing duty at a distance from his own house, and where he can find no proper accommodation for himself, or his horse; to be forced to look for it in a publick house, is both disagreeable and expensive. The glebe was designed, and the manse built in 1772, in a situation extremely cold, and exposed to violent storms; 4 miles from one church, and 9 from the other. The glebe consists of about 20 acres, Scots measure, of very bad moor, and two acres arable. The sum allotted for building the manse, was only 146l. 10s.; a part of the finishing within, and the offices, were put off to a future period; and nothing has been done as to either, except what the incumbent has done for his interim accommodation, at his own expense. He believes the heirs intend soon to make up these deficiencies. The present living is 49 bolls bear, 15 bolls meal, and about 17l. Sterling money, per decree of locality, by which all the recoverable teinds are exhausted.—Patron, his Grace the Duke of Argyll.

*General Character.*—The people of this parish are, in general, of a sober, honest, and hospitable disposition. Few crimes,

crimes, or high misdeemours have been known among them. The fines, for instance, for fornication and adultery, have not exceeded 5l. since the incumbent came to the parish, 25 years ago. As to their religious knowledge, they are happily ignorant of those party distinctions, and controversial disputes which disgrace and divide the religious in some parts of the kingdom, as well teachers as people. Sensible, however, of the disadvantages they have long lain under from their local situation, in a parish so oddly laid off, when the communication is so frequently interrupted by intervening rivers, and the consequent difficulty of enjoying the means of religious improvement, they anxiously look forward to that period when these obstructions shall be removed.

One very great obstruction to religious improvement in this parish, is not only the great distance of a considerable number of the people from the churches, and the interruption of rivers, &c. but chiefly their having publick worship only every second Sabbath in each church, and even this subject to the uncertainty and disappointment which must frequently arise from the above mentioned causes. It is evident, that if publick ordinances are the principal channels of religious improvement (which no sensible man will deny), this improvement will advance more or less in proportion, as these means are enjoyed. To want them, therefore, every second day, is plainly a deduction of one half of the quantum of knowledge and virtue they are calculated to produce. If to this be added, the force of those consequent habits of neglect and misapplication of that day, dedicated to the performance of the most natural and indispensible duties of a reasonable being towards his best Benefactor, and to the attainment of the essential requisites of private and public, present and future happiness, it will suggest considerations of the most affecting nature to every person who is not totally divested of every becoming

becoming regard either to God or his fellow creatures ; yet, shameful as it is, in this blessed land of religion and liberty, such, and worse than can now be described, is the situation not only of this parish, but of many other parishes in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. But it is to be hoped, that in the reign of the best of Kings, and during an administration which pays every attention to the temporal prosperity of the nation, this great object will not be overlooked ; that means will be adopted not only of rendering the situation of the present clergy comfortable, but that provisions will be made by Government for the support of such an additional number, as are necessary for reducing such parishes as are at present too large and extensive within reasonable bounds. This would render the duties both of ministers and people, not only easy and pleasant to themselves, but profitable to the nation, by facilitating the means of adding to the stock of publick virtue, and publick prosperity ; for, it is the surest way of attaining to that righteousness which exalteth a nation.

## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF AUCHINDOIR.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES REID.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

THE name of the parish is Gaelic. Its etymology is uncertain. It is said to signify "the field of the chase," or, "the field of the pursuit." But, though its situation among hills, the greatest part of which have been covered with wood, must have rendered it fit for the chase; and though a great number of cairns, said to have been raised over the bodies of the slain, and some other circumstances, make it not improbable that a bloody battle has been fought here; little more than conjecture can be offered why it should have taken its name, either from the hunting of wild beasts,

or

or the pursuit of an enemy\*. The form of the parish is irregular, and in many places it is intersected by the neighbouring parishes. There is no map of the parish; and, except the estate of Craig, none of it has been measured. It may contain about 35 square miles, being about 7 miles from N. to S., and, at a medium, 5 miles from E. to W.; but by far the greatest part of this is hill or moor; so that the extent of arable ground does not exceed 2000 acres. This country is, in general, hilly, or even mountainous, and some of the mountains are of considerable height. The Buck in particular, the top of which is a boundary of this parish, is, according to Ainslie, 23 7 feet above the level of the sea, and though more than 30 miles from the nearest sea, is seen at the distance of 10 leagues from the land. The mountains, in general, are covered with heath, and supply the sportsman with plenty of moor game, though for some years with considerably less than usual, owing, as it is supposed, to the stormy weather in the breeding season. Some of the hills are green, and though the grass be for the most part coarse, afford tolerable pasture to a good many sheep.

*Rivers, Hills, &c.—*The number of rivers, or even rivulets, is not so great as might have been expected in such a mountainous country. The only river in the parish is Bogie.

\* Buchanan tells us, that Luthiac, son to the usurper Macbeth, having been pursued northward by Malcolm, was slain "in the valley of Bogie." The spot where he was slain is thought to be about 2 miles to the north of the church of Auchindoir, but in the parish of Rhynie, in a place where a large stone, with some warlike figures on it, has been set up. If so, it is not improbable that Luthiac has been overtaken about a mile to the S. of the church, in the place where the above mentioned cairns now are; that being defeated, he has been pursued through the valley of Auchindoir, which lies between the cairns and the figured stone; and that from this pursuit, the parish of Auchindoir has taken its name.

It is formed by two rivulets, called the Burn of Craig, and the Burn of Corchunnan, which meet at the manse. This beautiful little river, after having run through a very rich strath or valley, to which it gives name, and after having supplied the bleachfields at Hundly with very soft and pure water, falls into the Dovern a little below that village, 12 miles from the place where it first took its name, without reckoning the windings of the river. There is plenty of fine trout in it, but scarcely any salmon, except in the spawning season. Don touches the S. E. corner of the parish, and there receives a small river, called Moffat, which divides Auchindoir from Kildrummy. Salmon are caught here by the rod or spear; but in no great numbers. If we include a part of Kearn and Kildrummy, which are very much mixed with this parish, the valley of Auchindoir is nearly surrounded by a range of hills. From these, several less hills shoot forward into the valley; and the hills are indented by gullies, and cut by dens or deep and narrow hollows, some of which reach a great way back into the mountains. The valley is exceedingly diversified and uneven, every here and there, either rising into hillocks, or sinking into hollows; the whole presenting a prospect, which, though confined, and in most places bleak, to the admirers of wild and romantick scenery, is by no means unpleasant\*.

*Minerals.*

\* Notwithstanding the surrounding hills, Auchindoir is dry and healthy, the hollows probably serving as so many ventilators to purify the air. Out of the 12 persons that died last year, the sum of the ages of 9, is 666: and within less than 20 years, 6 men have died, all servants in one family, whose ages amounted to full 500 years. The last of them, who died a few months ago, had been gardener at Craig since the year 1726, retained his faculties, both mental and bodily, in considerable perfection, and managed the garden with great attention to the last; rode 7 miles the day on which he died, and at the age of 86, probably fell a sacrifice to a social and convivial disposition. There are no distempers

**Minerals.**—Freestone is found in the greatest abundance, A quarry of it is wrought, which gives employment to 8 or 10 hands. There is also a vein of tolerably good limestone, which in different places appears even at the surface; but owing partly to the want of good roads to the places where it is found, partly to our short leases, and principally to the manner in which the stones have been quarried, every one taking them where he could most easily find them, without ever removing the rubbish, very little lime is burnt in this parish. This is the more to be wondered at, as there is plenty of good peat for burning it: and the more to be regretted, as it answers uncommonly well with the soil. The little lime that is used in Auchindoir, is chiefly brought from Cabrach, at the distance of 10 miles, and through very bad roads. We have also a loose gritty substance, which strongly effervesces with aquafortis; but, as the place where it is found is of difficult access, the effects of it as a manure have not been tried. Were we to value what is curious, rather than what is useful, Auchindoir might boast of being one of the few parishes in Scotland which produce asbestos. It is found on a hill called Townreef, in the bed of a little rill, but in no great quantity. One Jeans, from Aberdeen, found a great deal of it by digging in the neighbourhood.

**Population.**—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 839. As the registers here have been very inaccurately kept, it is impossible to say what the ancient population has been. The register of baptisms, which appears

distempers but such as are common in the north of Scotland. Rheumatism is the most prevalent, and gravel among persons in the decline of life. Inoculation for the small-pox has taken place of late. Last spring 50 were inoculated by a surgeon in the neighbouring parish, who very humanely gave attendance and medicines to the poor for nothing.

appears to be the least inaccurate, begins in 1694, at which time the parish seems to have been more populous than at present, the annual average of baptisms for 2½ years being 26, a greater number than any since that period. From 1697 to 1702, it falls as low as 5½; but, in a few years, rises to about 20. For the last 8 years, allowance being made for those who are not registered, it has been only 14½. The proportion between the males and females, is nearly as 7 to 6. By an actual enumeration in summer 1785, the parish contained 661 souls, and by another enumeration last spring, it contained only 572; so that the decrease, in less than 8 years, has been 89. The decrease is partly owing to the removal of cottagers, who had pendicles of land, and privilege of pasture from the tenants, at the foot of the mountains; the former being discouraged by the lateness of the seasons, and consequent loss of a great part of their crops since 1781, and the latter finding they could make more by the rearing of cattle, than the rents that were paid them. It is also partly to be attributed to the demand for labour in the manufactories at Aberdeen. Of the 572 inhabitants which the parish contains, the ages are as follow:

	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
Below 10, -	62	42	From 50 to 60,	28	18
From 10 to 20,	54	48	From 60 to 70,	22	21
From 20 to 30,	38	43	From 70 to 80,	14	16
From 30 to 40,	29	44	From 80 to 90,	7	7
From 40 to 50,	36	42	—————	98,	—
In all 290 males, and 282 females.					

Of these there are :

Above 10 years,	Of the Established Church,	-	441
	Seceders, [Burghers, and Anti-burghers],	-	15
	Scotch Episcopalians,	-	5
	Papists,	-	4
	Quaker,	-	1*

*Soil, Agriculture, &c.*—The soil of Auchindoir is, in general, thin, dry, and early, consisting of a pretty rich mould mixed with sand, and lying on freestone. From this, however, there are many exceptions. The N. E. part, at least the infield, is a strong deep clay, and the glens or hollows among the hills are wet, spongy, and late, much fitter for pasture than tillage. Improvements in this parish, and indeed in all this country, have made little progress. The Scotch plough drawn by 10 or 12 oxen, or by 2 small horses and 4 or 6 small oxen and cows, is chiefly used. The land, in general, is neither straighted nor levelled, and the quantity of turnip or sown grass is inconsiderable. The infield is kept in constant tillage, without being cleaned or refted: the outfield, which is more than two-thirds of the whole arable ground, is sown with oats for 5 or 6 years, and then allowed to

\* The Burgher-Seceders attend public worship in the parish of Tough, and the Antiburghers in Cabrach. The latter have public worship 4 times a-year in Auchindoir, but have no church. The Episcopalians have a church in the parish, in which one of the nearest clergymen of that persuasion officiates once a-month. Dissenters of all denominations are much on the decrease. There is one person who was born in Flanders: all the other inhabitants are natives of Scotland, and almost all of them of this and the neighbouring parishes. We have no physician nor lawyer. No manufactures are carried on here. The women knit a good many stockings, and spin a good deal of linen yarn for the manufacturers of Aberdeen and Huntly; but how much money this may bring into the parish, it is not easy to determine.

to run to natural grass for 8 or 9 years, after which it is again broken up and treated as before. This wretched mode of farming, however, though too general, is not universal. Mr. Gordon of Craig, one of the heritors, has a farm substantially enclosed, subdivided, and improved, in which the useful and the ornamental are happily united. Another of the heritors, Mr. Forbes of Brux, has also a farm in the parish. At an age, when the spirit of enterprize and exertion generally subsides, he undertook a work which required even youthful activity. When above 60, he took under his management, about 150 acres of his estate, consisting partly of outfield, and partly of heath. This he has enclosed, and more than three-fourths of it is carrying weighty crops of turnip, corn, or grass. He is now in his 84th year, and is still pushing on his improvements with considerable vigour. A few of the farmers have likewise adopted the modern husbandry, and with some success. One improvement only, and that on so narrow a scale as to be scarcely worth mentioning, is pretty general. Not above 20 years ago, hardly any of the tenants had potatoes, turnip, or sown grass, except in their gardens. Mr. Gordon of Craig, recommended raising them in the fields, and sent his gardener to teach the mode of culture. Now, every one has a few falls of potatoes and turnip, and some a little rye-grass and clover, in the fields \*. There are

\* It is, however, to be feared, that without the operation of some unforeseen cause, the progress of improvements here will not be very rapid. The following are among the reasons that lead to this uncomfortable conclusion 1<sup>st</sup>, It requires a considerable time to draw men from long confirmed habits; 2<sup>dly</sup>, If money be the sinequa non of war, it is no less the sinequa non of farming; and that is wanting among the tenants of Auchindoir. 3<sup>rdly</sup>, The principal market for our produce, is Aberdeen, and it is at the distance of 36 miles. 4<sup>thly</sup>, The leases are short, and not a few of the farmers are tenants at will, without any lease at all. 5<sup>thly</sup>, All the tenants pay mill-multures, which are a tax on industry.

in the parish, about 60 ploughs, 140 carts, 170 horses; 900 black cattle; and 3000 sheep. The valued rent of the parish is, 1322l. 11s. 4d. Scots. The real rent is about 650l. Sterling. After supplying itself, the parish exports annually about 100 bolls of bear; and 200 bolls of oatmeal. The bear is reckoned of an excellent quality; not unfrequently weighing

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dustry; and services, which draw off their attention from their own farms, and are much more hurtful to the tenant than beneficial to the proprietor. It is acknowledged that the inconveniences of either, are not so much felt here as in a country where improvements are going on, and the value of labour is better understood; but that they have a tendency to check improvements, cannot admit of a doubt. It is also acknowledged, that the services are not rigorously exacted, the tenants being treated with great lenity and indulgence; but they notwithstanding keep them in a state of dependence, as degrading to the character as inimical to exertions. *6tbly,* We have no winter-herding. As soon as the corn is off the fields, the cattle are let loose without a keeper. The sown grass and turnip, are the objects of their depredations; and these, as the country is open, it is impossible for the owners to preserve. The small patches of turnip are indeed taken up, and after their tops are cut off, are put into houses, or piled up in heaps and covered with earth; but where the fields are extensive, this cannot be done. It may indeed be said, that winter-keeping may be forced; but the measure is so very unpopular here, that few have the resolution to attempt it.

Some of these discouragements to improvement, it is evident, cannot be removed, and it is equally evident, that others can. If the best tenants, not the highest bidders, were preferred; if judicious encouragement, particularly long leases, were given to the most spirited, skilful, and substantial, and if those were assisted with a little money who seemed capable of making a good use of it; a spirit of improvement might be excited, the condition of the tenants bettered, and a permanent, though not immediate increase of rent obtained. It may appear improbable, yet some facts would almost incline us to suppose, that agriculture at some remote period had attained a greater degree of perfection than at present. Many places bear the traces of the plough, which are now covered with heath; and, what is very remarkable, the ridges are all straight, level, and of equal breadth. Some of these places too, are at an elevation, at which, it is now thought, corn cannot be brought to grow; but this is easily accounted for, if we consider that a great part of the country has formerly been covered with wood.

from 20 to 22 stone a boll, which has been known to yield 18 stone of meal. If the rise of the price of labour be a proof of increasing prosperity, we must entertain a very flattering opinion of the north of Scotland in general, and of this country in particular. Within these 30 years, it has been doubled, and tripled in little more than 40. In this parish, it is pretty much the same as in the rest of the county.

*Language, Antiquities, &c.*—The only language spoken here, is that dialect of the English which is common in Aberdeenshire. The peculiarities of it, a native is perhaps little qualified for pointing out. The people in the south of Scotland say, that the tone is harsh, and to them has the appearance of passion and bad humour. Almost all the names of the places are derived from the Gaelic, as "Auchinleith," or the grey field, "Toumriach," or the speckled hill, "Fulziemont," or the blood of the mountain. The last is the name of a farm, lying at the foot of a pretty high conical hill called Knock-chailich. The hill has been fortified by a double wall, and the farm has probably received its name from some bloody battle that has been fought there. On a little hill close by the church, there was a castle, said to be mentioned by Boetius; but no traces of it remain. It has been defended on three sides by rocks and precipices, and on the fourth side by a moat or deep excavation which has evidently been the work of art. There are several other antiquities, such as tumuli, barrows, and some little hillocks called pest-hillocks, about which last the tradition is too vague and uncertain to deserve a place here\*.

#### *Heritors,*

\* In the south-east corner of the parish, there is a spring called, "the Nine Maidens' Well," near which, tradition says, nine young women were slain by a bear.

*Heritors, Stipend, School, Poor.*—The number of heritors is 6, none of whom reside in winter, and only 2 in summer. The living is 40l. 1s. 6d.; 19 bolls, 1 peck,  $\frac{4}{7}$  of a lippie, meal, at 9 stone; and 6 bolls, 1 peck,  $2\frac{1}{7}$  lippies, bear; with 3l. 6s. 8d. of communion element money: the whole amounting to scarcely 60l. The Earl of Fife is patron. The manse was built in 1765; but is in very bad repair. The church is in pretty good repair; but by much too small for the accommodation of the parish \*.—The school salary is very small, being only 7 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, meal, at 9 stone; all paid by the tenants, and collected with a great deal of trouble. The whole emoluments of the office do not exceed 9l.—We have no stated funds for the support of the poor, except the interest of 200 merks Scots, paid by the family of Craig. Altogether, they receive little more than 10l. annually: yet this sum, small as it is, seems to be sufficient for

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supplying

a boar that infested the neighbouring country. A stone with some rude figures on it, marks the spot where this tragical event is said to have happened. The boar was slain by a young man of the name of Forbes, the lover of one of the young women, and a stone with a boar's head cut on it, was set up to preserve the remembrance of his gallantry and courage. The stone was removed by Lord Forbes to his house of Putachie; and it is from this circumstance that a boar's head is quartered in the arms of that family.

\* There are several dates on it, one as old as 1557. It has undoubtedly been a Popish church. In the north-east corner, there is a very complete crucifix cut in stone. Below it, is a niche in the wall, with the following inscription immediately over it, in very legible characters: " Hic E. corpus D. N. I. C. V. M." i. e. Hic est corpus Domini nostri Iesu Christi. Whether the last two initials stand for verè mutatum, and allude to the doctrine of transubstantiation, every one may judge for himself. On the lower edge of the niche, but now concealed by one of the seats, are these words: " Hic est servatum corpus ex virgine natum." Last year, by a decree of the Court of Teinds, the parishes of Forbes and Kearn were disjoined; and the former annexed to Tullynesile, the latter to Auchindoir: but, as the annexation does not take place till there is a vacancy at Forbes and Kearn, no account is taken of Kearn in this report.

supplying their necessities. There is a general reluctance to become a burden to the parish, which leads to industry and economy. Our young people consider it as a point of honour to support their parents ; and, when any case of extraordinary distress occurs, to which the public funds are unequal, the people cheerfully and amply make up the deficiency. There is no strolling beggar belonging to the parish ; but we have great numbers of them from other parishes. Some of these, particularly the women, are young and healthy ; and they are usually attended by several children of different ages, whom they train up to the same habits with themselves. If there be laws for remedying these and similar abuses, it is a pity they are not put in execution.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Some of our disadvantages have been already mentioned. To these may be added, our want of wood, which we are obliged to bring from great distances, even for the most common uses. This complaint, however, will soon be removed. Mr. Gordon of Craig, has planted about 600 acres, with all the kinds of forest trees that are to be found in the north of Scotland. They are in a very thriving state, and, while they have nearly doubled the value of his estate, have rendered Craig one of the most beautiful places in the county. The poet Arthur Johnston, in order to draw his learned\* friend from his retirement at Craig, represents this country as bleak, and shockingly ugly. Had he seen Craig in its present state, he would have made use of other

\* Johnston's letter is published in his " Parerga." The gentleman, to whom it was addressed, seems to have been a man of abilities and accomplishment. " Tu domine fontes siccasti cohortes"—" Tu mores hominum vidisti et urbes"—" Te spectant curia, rostra, forum ;" even if allowance be made for the partiality of a friend, and the colouring of a poet, applied to a man of ordinary merit, would have been an insult rather than a compliment.

other arguments. The rocks and precipices, the caves and dens, which he represents as so horrible, covered as they now are with trees and shrubs, are objects fitter to invite than frighten away.

It is not to be supposed that every little district should possess any striking peculiarity of character; and to touch the nice discriminating shades, is neither easy in itself, nor necessary in a work of this nature. The following fact places the character of the people of this parish in no unfavourable light: Within the memory of man, there has been no instance of suicide, nor of any criminal prosecution against an inhabitant of Auchindoir.

N U M.

## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF DYSART.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY.)

*By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE MUIRHEAD.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.*

THE name is of Gaelic origin, signifying the Temple of the Most High \*. The form is irregular. It is about 10 miles in circuit. Its extreme length is about 4 miles ; its greatest breadth near to 3. It contains 3054 acres. The ground rises gradually from the sea above a mile northward ; and then slopes down to the river Orr, which forms the boundary on the N. E. The soil is generally light : near the coast it is well cultivated, and the harvest early. In the N. W. of the parish, a track of land between the Orr and the rivulet

Lochty,

\* The parish of Glenurchay was formerly called Clachan Dysart, or the church of the High God. Clachan signifies stone or building, Dy, (GEOΣ) God, art, high.

Lochty, which there forms the boundary, is wet and very stony. In the spring, E. winds prevail, and bring mists from the sea, which are unfavourable to pulmonic complaints: at other times, the climate is not unhealthy \*. The sea coast extends about 2 miles. It is high and rocky: but the rocks do not project far into the sea; and in some places there is a sandy beach below them. Sea-ware thrown ashore by storms, is occasionally used as manure with success. The ware upon the rocks is cut once in 3 years, and produces a few tons of kelp. The course of the tides is regular, high-water being two hours after the moon comes to the meridian. But in shore, the current sets down the Frith 2 hours before high-water, and up the Frith, 2 hours before low-water. The harbour is much exposed to storms from the E., which, in winter are sometimes very violent. It may contain 12 large vessels at a time. The depth at a stream,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

*Minerals.*—There is plenty of good freestone at no great distance from the surface. Limestone has been found of an inferior quality, and is not quarried, as there is plenty of good limestone in the neighbourhood. The mines are coal and ironstone. There are 14 beds of coal in the Sinclair estate.

\* Epidemics are not frequent: when they come, they prove most fatal in Pathhead, not from the situation of the town, which is high, on rock or sand; but from the houses being crowded with inhabitants, and from want of sufficient attention to cleanliness. More attention is paid to this than formerly; but there is still room for improvement, in this respect, throughout the parish. It is a pity, that what tends so materially to promote health and comfort, should not be considered of great importance. There are two mineral springs. The one, impregnated with vitriol, had once some reputation for its medicinal qualities; but has for many years been entirely neglected. The other, impregnated with iron, was much resorted to about 12 years ago; but is now generally abandoned. Both are from coal mines, and come to the surface on the sea-shore.

estate. Most of them are thin, and have been wrought out above the level of the sea. Three of the thickest of these beds, which are near one another, are now working. The uppermost bed is 5 feet thick. The distance between it and the second bed, is 18 inches, being a foot of coal, with 3 inches of till above and under it. The 2d bed of coal is 8 feet thick; under it, is a bed of stone and till 2 feet 3 inches; and under it the 3d bed of coal, 5 feet thick\*. They are now working these beds of coal 60 fathoms below the surface. The water is raised by 2 steam engines: the coals are raised by 3 horse gins. Horses are employed under ground to bring the coals to the pit bottoms. The average quantity of coals raised annually for 7 years preceding 1791, is 15,267 tons, value 4000l., and 7000 tons of culm, value 583l.; 105 persons are employed†. There are 5 beds of ironstone, which

being

\* The metals cut through in getting to the coal, are, 1<sup>st</sup>, next the surface, 2 fathom brownish stone; 2d, 14½ fathom till, very close; 3d, 8 fathom brownish stone, porous, and mixed with iron veins; 4th, 7 fathom till, mixed with thin beds of freestone, hard; 5th, 2 fathom bluish stone, very hard, must be wrought with gunpowder; 6th, 6 fathom till, mixed with thin beds freestone; 7th, ½ fathom, a hard coarse coal, mixed with stone, which is immediately above the beds of coal that are wrought, and is left for a roof.

† Dysart coal was amongst the first wrought in Scotland, having been begun more than 300 years ago. It was on fire nearly as far back. It is said to have had periodic eruptions once in 40 years; a remarkable one in 1662. This fire is supposed to have been occasioned by pyrites, which is found in this coal. It is described by Buchanan,

" *Vicini deserta vocant: ibi saxa subter*

" *Antra tegunt nigras vulcantia semina cautes.*"

*BUCH. FRANCISCANUS.*

The effects of it may still be traced by the calcined rocks from the harbour, more than a mile up the country. The road from the harbour is called Hot Pot Wynd, and another near it, the Burning. In the beginning of this century, the flames were seen at night coming out of the pit mouths. In 1741.

the

being near each other, are wrought at the same time. They lie below the coal; and as they dip the same way, are wrought to the W. of it, where they come nearer the surface: 24 men are employed in this work, who raise 2080 tons annually. A ton of stone yields about 1200 weight of iron.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 2367. Little is known of the ancient state of Dysart. Trade is said to have flourished there in the end of the 15th century; 50 sail, probably small vessels then belonging to the town. Many of the inhabitants, particularly sailors, accompanied Lord Sinclair to the battle of Flodden, who were mostly cut off. This gave a great shock to their trade\*. The shipping has increased consider-

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ably

the coal was set on fire by a lime kiln, which had been placed too near it. It did not burn violently: but was not extinguished for some years. In 1790, it again took fire, from what cause is unknown. It did not burn with fury; but occasioned much smoke and bad air. The colliers were prevented from working for some months. It is now extinguished. The means used, were to exclude the air as much as possible, and to allow the water to rise by stopping the engines. Dysart coal has a strong heat: but being slow in kindling, and having much ashes, is not so pleasant for rooms as some lighter coals. It dips to the S. E. (most of the metals on the sea coast of this parish dip the same way) 1 fathom in 3 near the shore; but is flatter as it goes north.

\* It was made a royal burgh in the beginning of the 16th century: but the original charter, and old records are lost. In 1546, it is mentioned as one of the principal trading towns on the Fife coast. In the beginning of the present century, its trade was much decayed: but from the number of well built houses in it then, it had the appearance of having been in a flourishing state. At that time much salt was made there; and their trade consisted chiefly in exporting coal and salt to Holland. At that time too, malting and brewing were carried on to a great extent. In 1756, foreign trade revived. Several commenced wine merchants, and imported wine and spirits in their own vessels. This trade, supported partly by defrauding the revenue, is now happily done away. Individuals might gain by it: but the town was much hurt. Its effects on the morals

ably of late years; manufactures have been introduced; and the town may be pronounced in a thriving state. In 1756, the number of inhabitants was 1378. In 1792, 1827. The revenues of the town are small, arising from some landed property and the harbour dues.

Pathhead is named from its situation near a steep descent called the Path. It is divided into Pathhead Proper, or Dunikeer, situated on Dunikeer estate, and Sinclairton situated on Sinclair estate. Dunikeer is the old town: the greatest part of Sinclairton has been built within these 40 years. The chief employment in Pathhead was, for a long time, the making of nails. They sent great quantities to Edinburgh, to Glasgow, and to the north of Scotland. Two things favoured this trade, plenty of good coal near them, and the facility of getting old iron, by the ships trading from Dysart to Holland. But when other places came to have the same advantages, and nail factories were erected in different quarters, the profits of this trade were diminished. Manufactures have been introduced since that time. Many bred smiths have become weavers: the women too are beginning to handle the shuttle with success. Several manufacturers of substance now reside there, who have raised themselves by sober industry: and the town is in a fair way of flourishing, if the sudden rise of wages do not lead the young men into habits of dissipation. Symptoms of this have appeared of late: but the practice is as yet happily not general; and we hope the inhabitants, in general, will continue to show that regard to the laws of the land, and that respect for the precepts of the gospel, without which they cannot hope to prosper. In 1756,

Pathhead,

morals of the people are not yet entirely effaced. New laws and greater vigilance on the part of government rendered the trade very hazardous; and it is now seldom attempted. A fair trade has succeeded it, where the profits may be less, but the security is greater.

Pathhead, including Sinclairton, contained 1107 inhabitants : in 1792, 2089.

There are two villages, Galaton and Borland. In the former, nailing was the chief business ; and is still carried on. But many weavers now reside there, who are employed by the manufacturers in Dysart and Pathhead. In 1756, it contained 203 inhabitants ; in 1792, 432. Borland was begun in 1756, for accommodating the colliers, and has been since increased. It contains 196 inhabitants.

In 1756, the numbers in the country were 241 ; in 1792, 209. This increase is not from more farmers residing than formerly, but from a number of weavers and some smiths having from time to time built houses along the high road, and in other places of the country.

TABLE of the Population of Dysart Parish.

	Fami- lies.	Numbers in the Families.			Increased since 1756.	Houses.	Of these built since 1781.
		Male.	Female.	Total.			
Dysart,	451	819	917	1736	358	224	10
Pathhead,	581	1062	1027	2089	982	320	100
Galaton,	137	227	205	432	227	70	12
Borland,	41	87	109	196	127	30	6
Country,	84	190	219	409	168	80	8
	1294	2385	2477	4862	1862	724	126

The causes of this increase of population are, an Anti-burgher meeting-house being erected at Pathhead, which drew those of that persuasion near it ; the advantage of being near coal, and the encouragement for labour about the coal-works ; and what has contributed much more than either, the rapid increase of the manufactures.

*Improvements by Proprietors.*—In the Sinclair estate, there was originally an extensive moor, burdened with feal, divot, turf, &c. to the burgh of Dysart. Servitudes of this kind are a great bar to improvements: and, in estates where coal is an object, the attention paid to it, too often prevents the cultivation of the surface. When the inhabitants of Dysart came to give up the use of turf, either for burning, or other purposes, their privileges on the moor could not be of great importance. An agreement concerning them seemed evidently for the advantage of all concerned. This was accomplished at different periods. As a compensation to the town, above 100 acres were conveyed to them in property: and the family of St. Clair were at liberty to cultivate what remained. In the beginning of this century, a few years after the first transaction with the town, Lord St. Clair began to plant and enclose near the Orr. His example was followed by his successors: and what still retains the name of Dysart moor, now consists of good enclosures, chiefly in pasture, surrounded with belts of plantation. Within these 50 years, between 300 and 400 acres have been planted and improved, no more remaining in its original state, than what is necessary for such of the feuars as use divot for a covering to their houses. The whole estate, a few acres excepted, is enclosed with stone and lime, or ditch and hedge. The last is preferred as a cheaper, warmer, and more beautiful fence. The estate is still capable of improvement.

The proprietor of W. Strathorr, while he is busied in carrying on an extensive manufacture in a neighbouring parish, dedicates his leisure hours to the improvement of his estate in this. The ground has been cleared of stones, which almost covered the surface: the fields have been enclosed, drained, and manured: belts have been planted to screen it; it assumes a very different appearance from what it did a few

years

years ago. It already makes some return for the money laid out upon it; and will soon repay it with interest.

*Farms in the Hands of Tenants.*—These are 15 in number, containing from 30 to 280 acres each. Upon these, are 52 men, including the farmers and their servants; 94 horses; 350 cattle; 24 ploughs\*; 38 carts. They breed annually 16 horses, 79 calves. There are several extensive enclosures in pasture, on which 100 cattle are fed annually; 339 bolls of oats are annually sown, which produce 1824 bolls; 101 bolls of barley, which produce 589 bolls; 43 bolls of wheat, which produce 351 bolls; 70 bolls of pease, which produce 271 bolls. Potatoes, turnips, hay, and flax†, are also raised in no great quantities; and the proportions cannot be easily ascertained. The rent of the best grass-ground in the burgh acres is, 2l. 15s. the acre: of the best arable land, 3l. In the farms, there is little above 1l. an acre; and much below it. There is a considerable extent of ground not above 7s. 6d. the acre. The leases being only for 19 years, is against these farms. Had the farmers a lease of double that time, they would be encouraged to improve by the hope of a return; or, were the proprietors to take them for some time into their own hands, and improve them, they would afterward get more than double the rent, and do an important service to the publick. The produce of the parish goes but a little way to supply its consumption. Meal and flour are imported from Lothian; meal, wheat, barley, and hay, from the neighbouring parishes. Little manure can be got but lime, which is used in considerable quantities. For some time,

\* Small's ploughs are now generally used.

† More flax was formerly cultivated; but in the late leases, the farmers have been restricted in this article, from some mistaken notion of its being too flourishing.

time, servants were preferred to cottagers: but since the late rise of wages, and great demand for labour about the roads and manufactures, they feel the want of them, particularly in harvest, when hands are with difficulty procured. Men-servants wages are 6 l. a-year. Our farming cannot be said to be in a very advanced state: but there has been great improvement within these 20 years. The advantages of enclosing and laying down in grass are now felt: the distinction between infield and outfield is doing away: \* balks are disappearing; and green crops are substituted in the place of summer fallow. The soil is none of the best; but might be made much better than what it is at present.

*Burgh Acres.*—About Dysart, Pathhead, and Galston, numbers who keep cows and horses, find it necessary to farm a few acres at a high rent. Where farming is only a secondary object, perfection cannot be expected. They have the advantage of the country farmers in more easily procuring dung; and accordingly the soil near the towns appears richer than in the country. They often sow too thick; and are seldom at pains to keep their fields clear of weeds. Drilling was introduced about 40 years ago. Wheat, barley, beans, and oats, are sometimes sown in this way; turnips and potatoes always. Where the ground is over-run with weeds, as is the case with the burgh acres, from their being almost constantly in tillage, the drilling is surely a great advantage; seed is saved; the crop is generally more vigorous, and more easily kept clean. There are a few of those who have the burgh acres, who push the farming with vigour, and have their grounds

\* In stony ground, the stones used to be thrown into the hollow between the ridges, by which one-third of the ground lost these ridges called balks.

grounds well dressed. Such examples are needed, and are worthy of imitation \*.

**Manufactures.**—The number of looms in the parish, is from 700 to 750, employed in making checks and ticks. The quantity of cloth made annually, is about 795,000 yards, which being, at a medium, about 11½d. the yard, makes the annual value of this manufacture 38,093 l. 15 s. About half the cloth is sold in London; a fourth, chiefly the coarse kinds, in Glasgow; the other fourth in Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham, Leeds, and some other towns in Yorkshire. In the linen trade, 10 hands are reckoned to be employed by each loom; but as three-fourths of the flax consumed in this trade are foreign, 7 to a loom may be a proper medium, which, for 725 looms, is † 5075 people employed. Seven-eights of the flax used in making white or bleached yarns, are imported from Riga, and spun in Fife. What is used for the blue and dyed yarns, is chiefly made from home grown flax: but, as a sufficient quantity cannot be got, Dutch flax is imported and spun to make up the deficiency. Of late years, a considerable quantity of coarse yarn has been imported from Bremen and Hamburgh. Not above a fourth of the yarn used in the parish is spun in it. The greatest inconvenience the trade labours under, is a scarcity of good weavers. People not qualified to teach, take apprentices for 2 or 3 years, instead of a longer period. The apprentices, not attended to, get into bad

\* From being in such variety of hands, it was difficult to form any calculation of the produce of these acres. More wheat, and potatoes, and turnips, in proportion, than in the country farms.

† That is more people than the parish contains, because a great proportion of the flax is dressed and spun out of the parish. The number of hands employed in this parish in this manufacture, is between 2000 and 3000, beginning at the flax-dressers.

bad habits ; and many of them never can make a piece of good cloth.

This manufacture began in this parish between 1710 and 1720, and increased slowly till 1776, when it did not exceed, in value, 8500 l. annually. About that time, 2 or 3 of the established manufacturers got into the English trade, and making goods suitable to that trade, increased their demand beyond what their capitals were equal to ; or, though they had had funds beyond what they could find hands to execute. They of course gave their orders for coarse goods to manufacturers in the neighbourhood, who employed from 2 to 8 looms. These, by economy and industry, saved money from the orders they got ; and soon increased the number of their looms. But the value of the goods made, has increased much more rapidly than the capital of the manufacturers, owing chiefly to the many branches of the banks, by which credit is got too easily. On this foundation, about a third of the goods is at present made, and of an inferior quality to what is made by those of character and capital. Those who began this manufacture here, had to work with the sweat of their brow for 8 or 10 years, ere they gained the first 100 l. of their capital : now, a weaver \* without 10 l. capital, will get credit for 200 l. or 300 l. value of yarn, or cash for a bill, with 2 or 3 names upon it, to the same amount. To retire these bills, the goods must be expeditiously manufactured. To effect this, they seduce by drink, and offers of extravagant wages, the workmen of established manufacturers : the consequences

\* Since the above account of the cloth manufacture was sent me, a stagnation has taken place ; and scarcely any money can be procured at the banks. As yet, this parish has been less affected by it than many other places. But few hands have been dismissed : the wages have been lowered, but are still good. But unless there come a favourable turn soon, manufacturers cannot afford to make goods, when the sales are so low.

consequences must be obvious. The sales of the parish of late, are not under from 48,000l. to 50,000l. a-year \*. It must be observed, to the honour of the English, that in the trade with them, there are very few bad debts.

*Ships.*—A ship-carpenter employing about 6 men, settled here in 1764. His business gradually increased, till he found employment for upwards of 30 men. He has built here, 43 vessels measuring 5189 tons. Of these, 15 were for Dysart; 6 for Greenock; the rest chiefly for the neighbouring ports. In 1778, another carpenter bred under the former, began to build, and has had very good encouragement. He has built 31 † vessels measuring 3445 tons. About 45 men are at present employed, including both. At an average, for 15 years back, 501 tons have been built annually, which at 5l. the ton, makes the annual value of this manufacture 2505l. The crooked timber is imported from Hamburg and Bremen, and the oak plank from Dantzick. The foreign timber, after paying duty, is cheaper than what can be brought from any place in Britain. A considerable proportion, however, of English oak is used, where it is most useful. The separation of the American Colonies from Britain, and the amendment of the navigation act in 1786, have contributed much to the rapid progress of ship-building in this country. The employment which this business gives to shipping in importing the materials; the numbers employed in building, manufacturing sails, cordage, iron work, &c.; and the duties paid

\* The sales of the parish exceed the produce, because our manufacturers buy cloth from other parishes, and employ weavers there. It may be observed, too, that a number of the weavers in this parish are employed by the Kirkcaldy manufacturers.

† Only one of these vessels is yet known to be lost; 11 were for Dysart, the rest chiefly for the neighbouring ports.

on importing the foreign articles, render it of importance ; and it must be considered as a valuable acquisition to commerce. It is but justice to say, that the improvements in this art, have kept pace with the other improvements of the country. It is thought a boat-builder might find encouragement here.

*Nails.*—In Pathhead there are 43 smiths, who make about 6 million of nails annually, value about 1000 l. They are sold in the country round, and considerable quantities carried to Edinburgh, and some to the north country. In Galston there are also 43 smiths, they do not make the same number of nails, as several of them are far advanced in life, and a number of them make nails of a larger size for ship-building. The value of their manufacture, also about 1000 l. Their nails are sold in the neighbourhood, and quantities carried to Perth, Montrose, and Aberdeen. The nails are made of old iron imported from Holland : and the merchants who furnish the smiths with old iron, take their nails and send them to market.

*Salt.*—Salt was made here, at least some time before 1483, as appears by an agreement with the family of St. Clair, of that date. The works were more extensive than at present. There are vestiges of many salt-pans, which have been demolished long ago. Much salt was exported to Holland ; but none of late years. Seven pans are now going, and employ 14 salters, besides 2 or 3 other hands occasionally to carry the salt to the granaries. About 17,100 bushels are made annually, value 1200 l. The fuel employed is chiefly culm. 120 loads are required to make 100 bushels of salt. The bittern has been sometimes sought after by the chymists ; but is generally allowed to go to waste.

*Brewery and Ropery.*—In the former, about 1000 bolls of barley are malted annually, mostly the growth of this county. About 2500 barrels of ale and beer are brewed, from 10s. to 36s. the barrel, value 2150 l. A considerable quantity of this is sold in \* Kirkcaldy, to which the brewery pays 40 l. annually, impost. A manager and 4 labouring servants are employed. An addition is now making to the works, to carry on a distillery there. In the latter, about 6 men are employed in making small ropes.

*Domestick Commerce.*—There are 4 annual fairs in Dysart, one for linseed, one for white cloth, one for white cloth and wool, and one for black cattle. In Pathhead, one for white cloth and wool. In Galaton, one for white cloth. About 50 years ago, great quantities of cloth were exposed at these fairs, and bought by merchants from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Stirling. This trade has gradually fallen off; and very little business is now done at any of the fairs, except that for black cattle. Less white cloth is made in Fife than formerly, so many of the weavers being taken up in the check and tick manufacture: and the merchants choose rather to pick up the cloth at the bleachfield, than after it has been dressed for the market. The wool market too is entirely gone. Formerly many families spun wool, and made cloth for their own wearing: now English cloth is generally worn. And since enclosing became general, very few sheep are kept in Fife. The easy intercourse by means of posts and carriers, and shops being established in every little village, render fairs less necessary. Business is thus better managed. When every body resorted to the fairs, they were generally a scene of dissipation. Whatever day the fair began on, no business was done

\* It is situated just on the boundary of the Kirkcaldy parish.

that week. There is a weekly market in Dysart during the summer, for the articles of the country produce : and a flesh-market in Dysart and Pathhead, in which about 300 cattle are killed annually, besides mutton, and veal, and lamb, in their season. Mutton is often brought from Perth. The land sale of coal annually, is 7100 tons ; and of salt 2000 bushels. There are also considerable sales of meal and of wood \*.

*Maritime Commerce.*—Twenty-three square rigged vessels, and two sloops belong to Dysart, measuring, by register, 4075 tons, value 30,000 l., and employing 249 men. There is not trade from this port to employ this shipping. They are mostly in the carrying trade, going out in ballast, or loaded with coals, and bringing home wood and other articles from the Baltic to Leith, Sealock, Dundee, Perth, and other ports. A few of them trade from London, Liverpool, and other English ports, to the Mediterranean, West Indies, and America. Three of them are at present in Government service, as armed ships, and one as a tender. As to foreign exports and imports from and to Dysart annually, there were exported 4584 tons of coal, chiefly to Copenhagen, Gottenburgh, and

\* *Prices.*—Beef from 4 d. to 5 d. the pound tron; veal and mutton the same; mutton, when scarce, 5½ d. and 6 d.; lamb from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. the quarter; salmon from 5 d. to 8 d. the pound; fowls from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. the pair; chickens from 8 d. to 1 s. 4 d. the pair; eggs from 4 d. to 6 d. the dozen: fowls and eggs very scarce, from our vicinity to the capital; butter from 8 d. to 10 d. the pound tron; cheese from 3 s. 4 d. to 4 s. the stone tron; English cheese 5½ d. or 6 d. the pound English. Maid servants from 2 l. to 3 l. 10 s. a-year; day-labourers from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. a-day; journeymen masons 1 s. 6 d. a-day; ship carpenters from 10 s. to 12 s. a-week; house carpenters 1 s. 8 d. a-day; shoemakers from 7 s. to 8 s. a-week; tailors 6 d. a-day and their victuals; weavers from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. a-day; gardeners 1 s. 6 d. a-day; sailors from 1 l. to 2 l. 10 s. a-month; a salter, with his servant, from 1 l. to 1 l. 4 s. a-week.

Many of the above articles are double in price of what they were 40 years ago.

Christiansand, Dantzick, Hamburg, and Bruges of wood. From Rotterdam, Campen, Lemel, and Dantzick, 2 or 3 cargoes of goods sent coastways annually, are, 2080 tons Carron-works; 3583 tons coal to Dundee, P. Aberdeen, &c.; 15,100 bushels salt to Aberdeen; 160 bales cloth to Leith. Imported from 1000 bolls oatmeal †, 160 bolls flour, 130 bolls oat of other articles ‡. From Aberdeen, tiles, butter. From John's-haven, some cargoes of coasting trade is carried on in small vessels.

The people are fond of a seafaring life: 1  
verse to go into the navy, owing partly to which, from their infancy, they are taught press-gang. Many of the seafaring people till the sailors in Government service, to get 30: some small allowance to their widows and fam

\* The detail of wood, and other articles imported from is as follows: 2614 fir baulks, 1344 fir deals, 687 oak plank 74 spars, 300 deal eads, 230 plank ends, 5600 tree nails, 1 pailings boards, 2 fathom, and 90 pieces lath-wood, 48 bunch handspikes, 900 staves, 148,000 hoops. Other goods; 17 p 14 tons and 17 cwt. old iron, 499 matts flax, 682 hogheads and 7 hogheads clover feed, 94 casks tallow, 40 bags rag: 156 bushels apples, 20 barrels onions, 265 kegs spruce beer, 1000 tons oak-bark, 8 bales linen, 5 bales yarn, imported in 17  
vessels belonging to Dysart, and the neighbouring parts.

† More than double that quantity of meal is brought over as what comes to Pathhead is generally imported at Kirkcaldy with the Dysart imports.

‡ Such as 25 barrels salt herring, 30 ankers spirits, a hogsheads porter, 48 casks ashes, 35 barrels tar, 200 mats of yarn, 4 bales leather, cordage, &c. for the ships built he ports are in a passage-boat that goes twice a-week from D

ing recourse to a practice, not strictly conformable to the spirit of the British Constitution, and which is often cruel in its operation, upon a brave and hardy race of men, who, in war, have spread the terrors of the British arms, to the most distant parts of the earth, and who, in peace, convey to us, from every quarter, the comforts, conveniences, and luxuries of life. The expense attending the impress service, it is thought, would go far to defray the necessary addition to the seamen's wages. The subject certainly deserves the attention of every politician, of every patriot: and any hints, however imperfect they may be, and from whatever quarter they may come, in a matter of such importance, should not be entirely overlooked.

*Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.—*The charge is collegiate. The first minister has a commodious manse, built in 1779, and a garden, but no glebe. His stipend is 5 chalders meal, 5 chalders barley, and 16l. 13s. 4d., two load of coals a-week, and a chalder of salt annually, while the coal and salt-works are carried on: the teind of fish caught and sold in the parish, and half teind of fish brought for sale from other parishes. The second minister has neither manse nor glebe, nor any allowance for them. His stipend is 55l. 11s., two chalders of meal, and two of barley, and a load of coals a-week, while the works are carried on. The heritors are, Sir James Erskine St. Clair of Sinclair, Bart., who is patron of both charges, and titular of the teinds; James Townshend Oswald of Dunikeer, Esq. the Countess of Rothes, Walter Fergus of Strathorr, Esq. Major St. Clair of Skeddoway, the Town of Dysart, and 4 others who have each a few acres. None of the principal heritors reside, except Sir James St. Clair occasionally. The church is old; its date unknown; tradition

on says it was built by the Ficts. The arch  
ended it for preaching, cannot be praised for i  
k is dark, the side walls low, and the incum  
bers, &c. so many, that it is difficult to make  
it. It does not seat above half the congreg  
hool-house belongs to the town. They elect  
master, and pay his salary. The present mat  
tion-clerk. His salary, perquisites, and wages  
50 l. He teaches latin, english, book-keeping  
and navigation. About 70 at present attend his  
are several private schools in Dysart and Path  
in Galaton. The masters have no salary nor  
but depend entirely on the small wages they  
scholars, which are often but ill paid. Ab  
these schools f.—Twelve persons go from dou

\* About a year ago, the kirk-session applied to the heritors  
commodious. An architect was desired to inspect it, who proposed  
of alteration, and there the matter rests : but it is to be hoped  
see the necessity of doing something soon. Numbers are ob  
in neighbouring congregations; some go to the sectaries;  
feared, take advantage of this circumstance, to forsake pub  
ther. Were heritors eager to promote religion by their influence  
they would do much to support government and good order  
less cause to complain of the corruption of the lower ranks,  
do it with a better grace. Almost the only sectaries in the  
ers, Antiburghers, and Relief, amounting in all to 552 fami  
mentioned sects have churches in this parish; the former  
Kirkcaldy parish. The animosity between the church and se  
pily much abated. The people, in general, attend church  
few are beginning to be so fashionable as to attend only occa

† It is much to be wished some better provision could be made  
tion of youth. Dysart and Pathhead would require each two  
ters, Galaton and Bonland each one. A Sunday school was  
years ago, supported by subscription. At first, upwards of  
afterward, many who had come from novelty, gradually dro

4-week, and receive alms in meal or money. Few have recourse to this mode; and such seldom get from the funds. The funds are:

Collected at the church-door annually,	-	L.	45	6
Interest of stock,	-	-	9	4
Seat rents,	-	-	6	6
		L.	61	16

51 persons are now upon the roll, who receive from 1s. to 5s. monthly. Few of the industrious born and bred in the parish, come to be a burden on the funds. But numbers in the decline of life, come into the parish, and in a few years must of course be supported; others who have been idle and thoughtless in youth, when distreis or age come, are cast upon the public\*.

#### *Advantage*

rent, about 40 attend. It has had good effects: the children are regular in attending church, and attentive when there; but these parents are much to blame who, wanting ability or inclination to instruct their children in the principle of religion, do not avail themselves of the assistance they might have, by sending them to the Sunday school. As the funds raised for this school were more than equal to its support, they are partly applied to purchase bibles, and poor children to the weekly school.

\* There are several private funds of great use. In Dysart, the sailors, the maltmen, the bakers, have each their boxes for affiting their members in distress. In Pathhead, there are two associations of weavers, and one of smiths. In Galston one: In Bonnyrigg one. In 1782, the poor were in great straits. The patron (then Colonel James St. Clair) bought quantities of meal and pease, to be sold at reduced prices for their behoof, and gave money to be distributed to the most needy. In Dysart and Pathhead, money was raised by subscription, to purchase meal for them. When, by any unforeseen accident, a person or family is reduced to great distress, the neighbours frequently procure a temporary supply, by a contribution among themselves. None, I believe, get from the funds who do not stand in need: but the supply afforded is rather scanty. Sooner or later, it is supposed the heritors will be brought in: as few of them reside they by no means pay their proportion. The kirk-session at present manage the funds: but are always ready to allow the heritors to inspect their books, and take a share in the management.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The first advantage is, plenty of coal; but posterity will not thank us for wasting it so fast by exportation. 2d, Its vicinity to the sea, convenient for commerce and fishing. Little attention is paid to the last. We have only one family of fishers. The town is supplied with fish from Wemyss parish. They are carried on women's backs. The fish caught here, are, cod, whiting, flounder, mackerel, baggety, sand-eel, crabs, and lobsters. The lobsters are sent to Edinburgh. 3d, A good public road through the parish. So much cannot be said for the cross roads, which are next to impassable. When the public roads are finished, it is to be hoped attention will be paid to them. Tolls have been erected in the neighbourhood, and one in the parish, not without grumbling. It is generally thought they were necessary; and few will grudge to pay them, when the roads are well made. The chief disadvantage is, a scarcity of good water, particularly in the town of Dysart; the surface is much drained by the working of the coal.

*Improvements suggested.*—1. It would be of great importance to the trade of the place, to have the harbour deepened, and rendered more secure. The town can do very little in this way from their own funds; but as upwards of 3000 L. are annually paid to Government from goods exported and imported at this harbour, and a great value of shipping is there annually exposed to danger, they think they have a claim for some aid from Government, for carrying on so necessary and so useful a work. 2. A dry dock might be easily made in the W. side of the harbour. The stones are daily quarried for building: at some additional expense, they might be so quarried as to form a dock in the solid rock. 3. Ground might be gained from the sea, near the harbour, which is much wanted to contain the wood used in ship-building. Some

thousand carts of ballast are annually cast upon the shore, at the back of the harbour. Were proper means used to prevent the sea from washing it away, it would soon accumulate and become solid. 4. Our trade is chiefly to the Baltic, which is frozen in the winter, of course the sailors are at home 3 or 4 months in the year. It is a pity they were not employed during that time; so much labour is thus lost to the community, and so much comfort to the individual. They would be happier employed than idle. Those who are bred weavers or smiths have an advantage in this respect: they sometimes follow these employments when at home. 5. The engines and salt pans occasion much smoke, which is very disagreeable, destroying vegetation in the gardens, and penetrating the inmost recesses of the houses. By erecting the proper apparatus on the chimney tops, it might be converted into tar. Thus the nuisance would be prevented, and a manufacture established, peculiarly adapted to a sea-port town.

*Remarkable Events.*—On the 7th of January 1740, a number of boys, according to custom, on 1st Monday of the year, were diverting themselves on the sands below Pathhead; 13 had gone into a cave, when the roof suddenly fell in; 3 only were taken out alive, and one of these died soon after. The friends of those who met this untimely fate, for many years kept the first Monday of the year as a fast. An instance of 3 at a birth has happened 5 times during the incumbency of the present minister. Few of them survived long\*.

#### *General*

\* *Antiquities.*—There was a priory of Black Friars in the town of Dysart. Their chapel, called St. Dennis, was long in a ruinous state, but was lately converted into a forge. The Romans had a station here. A high rock, commanding the harbour, is called the Fort, and is said to have been fortified by Oliver Cromwell. No remains of any works there appear. There is a stone erected in a field to the N. of the town. The tradition is, that a battle with the Danes had

*General Observations.*—The people are well clothed, have good houses, and live comfortably. They ought to be, and it is to be hoped, are, contented with their lot. No doubt complaints are heard, and not altogether without reason, from some in the lower ranks, of the hardness of the times. Women, especially in the decline of life, find it hard to gain a livelihood by spinning, which is almost their only employment. Farmers too complain of the difficulty of getting hands for their work. And it is to be regretted, that agriculture, useful to health, favourable to morals, and indispensably necessary to the well-being of a state, should be so much neglected. But we cannot expect every thing to our wish in this world: and if the above account of this parish be just, it will appear they have their own share of the comforts of this life. May they never forget the obligations they are under to Him from whom their blessings flow; and that godliness is the only sure foundation they can lay for lasting prosperity and true enjoyment. “It is profitable for all things, hav-

3 U 2 ing

had been fought there. A rivulet running through that field is called Kings-law-burn. The castle of Ravenscraig is situated on a rock, projecting into the sea, at the E. end of Pathhead. It was given by James III. to William St. Clair Earl of Orkney, with the lands adjoining to it, when he resigned the title of Orkney. It has been ever since possessed by the family of St. Clair. It was inhabited in Oliver Cromwell's time, and was fixed upon by a party of his troops. It has, for many years, been uninhabited, and in a ruinous state. Three old trees stood together near the road from Dysart to Pathhead. Two traditions were handed down concerning them; the one, that three brothers of the St. Clair family had encountered there, during the night, mistaking one another for robbers, and had fallen by each others hands; that they were buried there, and three trees planted on their graves. The other is, that all the ground on the neighbourhood of Dysart had been originally in wood; and that when the wood was cleared away, these three trees were left as a memorial of its former state. They were much decayed, and three young ones have been planted in their place. The arms of the town of Dysart bear one tree: and it has long been a proverb here, As old as the three trees of Dysart.

ing the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." To see religion prosper among them, would gratify the highest wish of their pastor, who, having the comfort to be settled in the place of his nativity, and being called to be a fellow labourer with his father in the same charge, could not possibly desire a more eligible situation for the exercise of his ministerial functions. He cannot but be interested in every thing that relates to them, and especially in what concerns their eternal welfare; and his joy would be great, to perceive, from their conduct, that his labours among them have not been in vain.

**N U M.**

**NUMBER XXXVI.****P A R I S H O F M A R K I N C H .**

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF KIRKGALDY.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN THOMSON.*

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***Name, Extent, Surface, &c.***

THE parish church and village of Markinch stand upon the southern declivity of an eminence, or little hill, surrounded on all sides by a marsh; and from this insular situation, the last part of the name is obviously derived. Mark, or Merk, according to the most ancient spelling, has probably been prefixed, from the valuation put upon this inch, or spot of ground. The greatest extent of the parish from N. to S., is five miles and a half; and, from E. to W., about five miles, which may contain about 7000 acres. The form of the parish is very irregular, being deeply indented in several places, by the adjacent parishes. The village of Dubiefide, which contains

tains near 200 inhabitants, and lies upon the Frith of Forth, on the W. side of the mouth of the Leven, forms a part of this parish, though totally detached by the intervention of the parish of Wemyss. Markinch consists of four straths, or valleys, running from W. to E., all of them approaching, and some of them joining one another on the E. These straths are separated by gently swelling hills, which rise to no great height, and which are usually called Laws. These hills, or laws, corresponding to the general rise of the country from S. to N., gradually rise above one another; the more northerly always overlooking those that lie towards the S. The hill on the northern boundary is in a line with the Lomond hills, and forms a part of that track of high ground, which, extending from W. to E., divides the northern from the southern part of the county.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases* — The soil of this parish is various. A small part consists of strong clay, and deep loam. A larger proportion, of light loam, rich and fertile. There is also a good deal of dry, gravelly, sharp land, which, in moist seasons, yields plentiful crops. But the largest proportion is rather wet, and lies on a cold, tilly, or clayey bottom. Of this kind some is sufficiently deep, and, in warm springs and summers, abundantly productive. But other parts of it are thin, and, when allowed to lie untilled, apt to run into heath, or coarse bent grass. The whole parish almost is arable, except a large moss on the N. side, and some swampy ground, which has been planted with fir, and other kinds of barren timber. This parish has little shelter from the storm in any direction, but suffers most from the easterly winds, which, in the spring months especially, are exceedingly cold and penetrating. The climate, however, is tolerably mild and temperate, and the inhabitants generally healthy.

Rheumatism,

Kneumonia, consumptions, and hystericks, prevailing diseases. Nervous fevers are not uncommonly epidemical. During the incumbency minister, several instances of scrofula and cancered. The small-pox is frequently very fatal. Individuals have been reconciled to the practice, yet the prejudices of the bulk of the community against it continue so strong, that it has not yet introduced. Children from 4 to 10, or 12 years of age, are peculiarly liable to worms, particularly that the teres, or long round worm. Some young persons, have been known to void, in the space of a score of hours, upwards of a score of these worms, some of them inches long.

*Rivers.*—The river Leven, which issues from a loch of the same name, lying about 5 or 6 miles to the westward, runs through this parish, and empties itself into the Firth, at the town of Leven. The Orr is a smaller river, rising from a loch or lake, of the same name, lying about 2 miles to the westward, and runs through the south part of the parish, joining the Leven about 2 miles below the church. In both these rivers there is plenty of fish. Salmon, pikes, and burn trout are the principal kinds. There is also to be found in the burn trout, of a tolerable size, the flesh of which is excellent. Salmon, of a fine flavour, and very fat. Persons who are fond of the amusement of angling, can have a very excellent sport in these rivers at the proper season.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The great road from Kirkcaldy, and Dundee, runs through the west part of the parish, and, since the late turnpike act for this county,

are several bridges within the bounds of this parish; but 3 only of such consequence as to deserve notice; one over the Orr, another over Lochty, a small water, about a mile N. of the Orr; and another over the Leven, near Balbirnie. The first of these is very old and narrow\*. The other two have been lately rebuilt. There is another line of road, which leads from Kirkcaldy to Cupar, and passes through the eastern part of the parish. On this road there is an excellent bridge over the Leven at Cameron. There is also a public road, which leads from Kinross to Leven, Largo, and the east coast, and nearly divides the parish in the middle. It is in tolerable order, though not yet in the same state of repair with the two just now mentioned. On the W. road, there is a toll-bar near the northern extremity of the parish; and another on the E. road, at Windygates, near Cameron bridge. Besides the bridges already taken notice of, there is one over the Orr, about a mile and a half above its influx into the Leven; and two over the Leven, one at Balgonie, and the other at Balfour. The by-roads are in a very bad condition. In winter, and in wet weather, even during the summer months, they are, in many places, almost impassable. This evil the parish of Markinch feels in common with the rest of the country; to remove which, some effectual remedy ought surely to be, as soon as possible, applied. Good toll roads are doubtless highly advantageous to a country; but the advantage will be almost entirely confined to passengers, and those who live in the immediate neighbourhood, unless a ready communication with these be opened up for the remoter parts of the country, by putting the by-roads into a proper state of repair.

#### *Population.*

\* It was built about 360 years ago, by James Bethune, archbishop of St Andrew's, son to the laird of Balfour in this parish.

**Population.**—Markinch is, perhaps, one of the most populous country parishes in Fife; the number of souls amounting to nearly 2800. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was only 2188. Hence there is an increase of about 612. This extraordinary population may be accounted for from the following circumstances: There are 7 villages in the parish, which contain about 400 families; and two large collieries, which employ a great number of hands. The feuars are very numerous, being about 120. There are a great many mills, of different kinds, upon the Leven. Every farm of any considerable extent has a cottage town upon it; and there is a great proportion of the heritors resident, who, besides the extraordinary number of servants they keep, employ a much greater number of labouring people, than tenants could be supposed to do \*.

**Heritors and Rent.**—The principal heritors are the Earl of Leven, Mr. Balfour of Balbirnie, Colonel Wemyss of Wemyss, Mr. Bethune of Balfour, and the Countess of Rothes. Besides these, there are several other respectable gentlemen, who possess considerable property in the parish, and a number of small proprietors. The number of the whole is 21, of whom 11 are resident. The valued rent amounts to 10,456 l. 5 s. Scotch money. The real rent cannot be exactly ascertained, as many of the proprietors are resident, and have a considerable

\* Since the year 1785, when the present incumbent was admitted, the population of the parish has increased about 200, owing to the re-erection of Balgonie colliery, which had not been wrought for 40 years, and a great many new feus, granted lately by the Earl of Leven. Within the last six or seven years, about 80 new houses have been built, and 8 rebuilt, besides a great many more, which are building. The expense of these buildings may amount to 4000 l. Sterling. The division of the inhabitants, and any other circumstance relative to the population of the parish, necessary to be remarked, will be seen in the Statistical Table hereto annexed.

quantity of their land in their own possession. As nearly as it can be calculated, it may amount to upwards of 5000 l. a-year. Within the last 20 years, the rents have risen above 2000 l. a-year; and they are daily advancing. The rent of land, let in large farms, is from 10 s. to 22s. the acre. Small pieces of ground, if of superior quality, or in the immediate neighbourhood of the villages, will bring from 30 s. to 40s. the acre.

*Agriculture.*—Some years ago, the method of farming, in this parish, was extremely rude, slovenly, and unproductive. Excepting the pleasure-ground around gentlemen's seats, and some enclosures, which the residing proprietors kept in their own hands, the whole parish almost lay open and unenclosed. Few turnips were sown; and very little ground laid out in clover and rye-grass. The land was ill tilled; no pains taken to make, or to keep it clean, and the scanty allowance of manure injudiciously applied. In consequence of this, the grain was of an inferior quality, and brought a lower price at the market. But of late, by the example of the gentlemen, who begin to pay more attention to the improvement of their estates, by the regulations fixed in the new leases, and by the exertions of some intelligent, substantial, and enterprising farmers, agriculture begins to assume a more promising aspect. Though much of the parish still lies open, enclosing is going on very rapidly. The turnip husbandry, becomes more and more extensive every year. A great deal of land, is sown with clover and rye-grass. More attention is paid to fallowing, and cleaning; and more judgment shown in cropping the lands. The judicious farmer keeps more of his land for hay and pasture, and less in tillage than formerly; by these means, as well as by the quantity of turnips raised, and consumed upon his farm, the quantity of manure is increased, and he enabled, to do more

more justice to his grounds. The use of lime too, as a manure, is becoming very general. One tenant lately laid upon his farm, upwards of 1500 bolls of shells, or unslacked lime, in one season. The Scots plough is still used by many, but its construction has been much improved, by which means it is rendered easier for the horses, and makes better work, than formerly. However, the English plough, with the curved mould board, of cast metal, is coming fast into use. Where the land is dry and clean, a couple of horses are only yoked into the plough, and the man who holds the plough, drives the horses : but in wet, deep, and strong land, cattle are still used along with the horses. This method is certainly very proper, for such a soil ; as the steady, deliberate step of the cattle gives a due check to the hurry and impatient ardour, natural to horses, in wet deep ground \*.

*Produce.*—Oats, and barley, or blanded bear, are the prevailing crops. Blanded bear, or rammel, as the country people here call it, is the produce of barley and common bear sown in a mixed state. These are distinguished chiefly by the form or structure of the ear ; the barley having only two rows of grain, and the common bear six. Barley is a stronger and larger grain than the bear. It lies longer in the ground before it springs, and is later in ripening. And the same dif-

\* Though improvements in agriculture are making considerable advances, yet there is one bar, which, unless removed, must greatly retard their progress, and prevent their ever coming to perfection ; I mean the disinclination of the proprietors to give leases of a sufficient length of time. To enclose, and subdivide, and clean, and manure to purpose, a farm of any considerable extent, would require from 500 l. to 1000 l. But there are few farmers who would risk such an expense upon a lease of 19 years. To accelerate the improvement of land, and to bring it to its highest state of cultivation, the proprietors must either encourage the exertions of the farmer, by granting longer leases, or take the trouble and expenses upon themselves.

ference is observable, when they are made into malt. It is remarkable, however, that when barley and common bear have been cultivated, for some time, in a mixed state, they spring, and ripen, and malten equally; and little difference in point of strength or size is discernible. This is probably owing to the pollen of the two species mixing and falling indiscriminately upon both, when the plant is impregnated, and thereby producing a sameness in the quality of the grain, whilst the external form of the ear of each is preserved distinct. Corresponding to this idea, the blanded bear holds a middle place, in point of quality, between barley and common bear. Though inferior to the former, it is of a better quality than the latter. This mixed kind of grain is wearing out, and the culture of clean barley becoming more general. Till lately, little wheat was sown in this parish: at present, between 80 and 100 acres may be raised annually. It is doubtful, however, when the nature of the soil, in general, is considered, whether it would be advantageous to the farmers here, to push the cultivation of wheat to any considerable extent, at least, till the improvement of the ground is brought to a higher degree of perfection than it is at present. Nearly as much land may be employed in raising peas and beans; and upwards of 100 acres for flax. It may be proper to observe here, that whilst improvements of other kinds have been attended to, the culture of flax still continues to be conducted in a very injudicious and unprofitable manner. The farmers, besides sowing a quantity for themselves, their servants, and harvest reapers, let so much of their land to others, who either are adventurers in that article, and raise considerable quantities, or who raise it solely for the use of their own families. Little attention is paid either to the choice of the soil, or the preparation of the ground; and of course, whilst the product is small, generally

not above two, and sometimes not above one ton stone, from the peck of seed, the land is scourged, and a great deal of extraordinary labour and manure necessary to fit it for a succeeding crop. Potatoes too are raised in large quantities. Besides what every farmer plants for his own use, all the cottagers upon the farm, and many of the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, take as much land for potatoes as they can plant with their ashes, and what dung they can procure; and for this, they either pay money, or labour in harvest. The rent at which land is let, for flax or potatoes, is generally from 3l. to 4l. the acre; and when let in smaller quantities, it is from 15d. to 18d. the 100 square yards.

*Cattle.*—The breeding of horses, and particularly of black cattle, has of late become an object of general attention. Most of the principal farmers, besides rearing young cattle, graze in summer, and feed upon turnips in winter, a considerable number for the butcher. Formerly, every farmer, almost, kept a quantity of sheep: but now they are totally banished, except a few, which some of the residing proprietors breed for their own use, and these are mostly of the large white faced kind. The farm steeds, with a few exceptions, are ample and commodious, and every farm of any considerable extent, has a cottage town upon it. This is of great advantage to the farmer; as it enables him to furnish a house and garden, or kail-yard, to such of his men servants as are married; and the other houses he can let upon such terms, as to secure the labour of the cottagers in harvest, or at any other season, when extraordinary assistance may be necessary.

*Mills and Maltures.*—There are a great many corn mills in the parish; every heiror of any considerable property, or who has the command of water, having a mill upon his estate, to

to which his tenants are usually thirled. The mulfures are very high, amounting to one 13th part of the value of the grain carried to the mill. For this, it is true, the mill master does a great deal of duty. He carries the grain from the farmer's barn, dries, and grinds it, and brings it home.

*Manufactures.*—On the Leven, near Balbirnie bridge, a manufacture of linseed oil hath been established for a good many years, which hath been carried on to a considerable extent. This manufacture is not only profitable to the manufacturers themselves, but advantageous to the country around, as it furnishes a ready market, and ready money, for all the linseed produced in the neighbourhood, which, being unfit for sowing, could not turn to account any other way.—There is also in this parish, a bleachfield, where a large quantity of cloth is whitened every year. It is under the best management, and gives general satisfaction. In the village of Markinch, a stocking manufacture has been set on foot lately, and promises to do well. Some time ago, a considerable quantity of brown linen was manufactured for sale. But of late, that kind of work has been mostly relinquished, and the weavers, not engaged in country work, have been employed by the great manufacturers on the coast, in making checks and ticks, and from the flourishing state of these manufactures, and the extraordinary rise of wages, the number of weavers hath greatly increased. There are a few who carry on business for themselves, on a small scale, and employ from 6 to 12 hands. Manufactures of different kinds, particularly of spinning and weaving, might be carried on in this parish with much advantage. The water of Leven affords many excellent situations for machinery. Coal is at hand, and abundant. There is great plenty of good freestone for building; and, therefore, should any man of ability and

enterprise

Enterprise set a business of this kind on foot would be highly beneficial to himself, and to the country would be well worthy the countenance and exertion of gentlemen in the immediate neighbourhood employing a number of hands, it would furnish for the produce of their estates, and of course a large sum.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church of Markinch is a convenient place of religious worship \*. The King's stipend consists of 128 bolls of wheat, Linlithgow half meal and half barley, and 500 l. Scotch, including 100 l. Scotch for communion elements, and 8 acres of glebe †. There are no Seconderies or dissenting houses in this parish. The great body of the people are steadfastly attached to the Established Church, the sixth part only having joined the different sects.

\* It was given by Maldvinus, Bishop of St. Andrew's, to the church of St. Andrew's, in the 10th century. Towards the end of the 12th century, it was confirmed by Eugenius, by his son Hugo, a son of Michel M'Duff, the 4th Earl of Fife, which deed was confirmed by King William. From this Eugenius, the family of the Earls of Crawford is supposed to have sprung. About the beginning of the 17th century, after the arsonage of Kirkforthar, belonging to Lindsay of Kirkforthar, the church of Kirkforthar, belonging to the family of Crawford, was suppressed and annexed to Markinch. The church of Kirkforthar are still to be seen: they stand in the old church-yard, or burying-ground, which is enclosed by a wall. Many of the people belonging to that district still bury their dead there.

† In the year 1636, the stipend received a small augmentation by the annexation of Kirkforthar. Since that period, it has been augmented, and the augmentation got, was only 20 l. of money per annum, or some oats into meal. Among the predecessors of the present Mr. Tullochdelph, afterward Principal of the College of St.

*Schools.*—There is one established schoolmaster in this parish. He has a good house and garden, with a salary of 100 l. a-year. The school-fees are, 3s. for teaching latin, 2s. 6d. for arithmetic, 2s. for writing, and 1s. 6d. for english. And as the village of Markinch, and the country in the immediate neighbourhood, are very populous, the emoluments are considerable. Including precentor's fees, and other perquisites, they may amount to 50l. a-year. Besides the established school, there are 6 private schools in different parts of the parish, the most considerable of which, is fixed at the Coal town of Balgonie. This is under the immediate patronage of Lady Balgonie, who has built, at her own expense, a school-house, and a house for the schoolmaster; and by the encouragement she has afforded, and the personal attention she has paid to it, has greatly contributed to its prosperity and success. Her Ladyship has also established, at the same place, a school for teaching young girls to sew; and has provided a house for the mistress, with an apartment for teaching, and has given such encouragement, as to induce a woman of character and abilities to undertake the management of it. At these different schools, upwards of 200 children are constantly taught, almost all of whom belong to the parish.

*State of the Poor.*—There are at present 20 poor people on the roll, who get regular supply every week; besides several others, who are assisted occasionally as their necessities require. The sum expended annually for this purpose, is about 600 Sterling, arising from a fund of 320 l., the weekly collections at the church-door, and the dues of the mortcloses. There are no begging poor belonging to the parish.

*Prices of Grain and Provisions.*—For some years past, the average price of wheat has been 20 s., of barley 15 s. a

blanded bear 14 s., of common bear 13 s. 4 d., of oats 12 s., and of oatmeal 15 s. the boll. The wheat boll is nearly 4 Winchester bushels, the barley and oat boll 6 Winchester bushels, and the meal boll 8 Dutch stone. Beef, mutton, pork, lamb, and veal, sell commonly at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound, of 22 ounces. At particular seasons, however, when these articles are plentiful, they fall to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d., and at other times, when they are scarce, rise to 5 d., or even to 6 d. the pound. The price of all kinds of poultry has advanced greatly of late. A fed goose will sell at 3 s. 6 d., a turkey at 4 s., a hen at 1 s., and chickens at 6 d. or 8 d. the pair. Butter sells at 9 d., common cheese at 3 d., and sweet milk cheese at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound. Butter and cheese are sold by the same weight with butcher meat. Some years ago, fish of all kinds were abundant and cheap. But now the price is more than doubled. This extraordinary rise is owing partly to scarcity, and partly to the increased consumption of the Edinburgh market.

*Prices of Labour.*—The wages of day-labourers, from March to October, are from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d., and for the rest of the year from 8 d. to 10 d., varying according to the nature of the work in which they are employed. In harvest, men get 10 d., and women 8 d. a-day, with their meat. When hired for the whole harvest, men have a guinea, and women 15 s. or 16 s. and their maintainance; and generally the privilege of some latt fown. Men servants, who eat in the house, get of wages from 5 l. to 7 l. a-year, and maid servants from 2 l. to 3 l. Farm servants, who furnish their own provisions, get 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, and an allowance for milk, besides their wages. Sometimes they have a house and kailyard, and a cow fed through the year, and, in that case, their wages are not so high. Tailors get 8 d. a-day, with their meat; masons have 1 s. 8 d.; and carpenters 1 s. 6 d. With-

in these last ten years, the price of labour, in general, has advanced in the proportion of 3 to 2.

*Inns, and Ale-houses.*—Upon the W. road, there are two excellent inns, the New Inn at Pittillock-ford, and the Plasterers, near Balbirnie bridge. These are superior to most, and equal to any in the county. There are 10 ale-houses in the parish, which sell porter, whisky, and small-beer. Some of these brew, and the rest purchase small-beer from brewers, partly for sale in the house, and partly to supply private families with that article. Though ale-houses are generally hurtful to the industry and morals of the people, these bad effects have not been sensibly felt in this parish.

*Minerals and Fossils.*—In the estate of Balbirnie, there is an extensive bed of shell marl. The shells are mostly wilks (periwinkles) and muscles. When exposed to the air, they fall in a short time to powder. The medium thickness of the bed is 3½ feet under a cover of 7 or 8 feet. This marl was discovered a great many years ago; and it is surprising, that such a fund of manure should have been neglected for so long a time, especially as there is level enough to drain it, at no great expense. There is abundance of freestone in the parish, and some of it of excellent quality. On the N. side of the parish, there is a large moss, from which a considerable quantity of peats is dug every year. These are partly used by the poorer people in the immediate neighbourhood, and partly carried to more distant places, and sold for the purpose of kindling fires.

But what chiefly deserves to be mentioned under this article, is the plentiful supply of excellent coal, which this parish enjoys. Balgonie coal \* is within a mile and a half

S. E.

\* Balgonie coal, the property of the Earl of Leven, was discovered and wrought

S. E. of the village; and Balbirnie coal within half that distance to the W. Both these collieries are too distant from a sea-port for exportation; but the whole inland part of Fife, for many miles round, and even N. to the river Tay, is supplied from them. The former has a water engine, with a wheel 16 feet diameter, which works two pumps to the depth

3 Y 2

of

wrought upwards of 300, some say 500 years ago. As far back as the year 1517, the Coaltown of Balgonie is mentioned in a scheme of division and valuation of the county of Fife, of that date. The name of the village evidently indicates, that it had been originally built for the accommodation of the colliers, or, because built on the ground where coal had been found and wrought. But since it had grown to such consideration at the above mentioned period, as to be taken notice of in the general description and valuation of the county, it must have existed, and, of course, the coal must have been wrought for a considerable time before. That this coal had been wrought at an early period, to a considerable extent, appears from the coal waste, which can yet be traced for upwards of 3 miles along the line of bearing, and which had been dried by a free level to the depth, at an average, of 14 fathoms. It would appear, however, that when the free level coal was wrought out, the workings ceased. How long ago this happened, it is impossible to say. The grandfather of the oldest man living on the spot 60 years ago, had neither seen it wrought, nor had he seen any person who could tell at what period it stopped. In the year 1731, it was again set a-going by Alexander Earl of Leven, who erected a water engine, which wrought two sets of pumps, with 9 inch working barrels, and which dried the coal to the depth of 30 fathoms. In the year 1732, this coal was let to tacks-men, who carried it on for some years, but meeting with large hitches yielding much water, their engine was overpowered, which obliged the tacksman to abandon this spot, and erect a wind-mill at a little distance on the crop, leaving a sufficient barrier to keep off the water, which drained a small breast of the coal. This mill wrought an 8 inch bore 14 fathoms deep, which enabled them to carry on a more extensive winning \* farther on the dip, than the old level free wastes. During this operation, George Balfour, Esq. of Balbirnie, wrought up a level to the coal in his estate, anno 1740, which enabled him to undersell the tacksman of this coal; by which means, in 1743, they were obliged to give it up, there not being demand for both. Nothing more was done till the year 1785, when Lord Balgonie erected it again, by fitting up the present engine.

\* Whatever extent of coal is dried, either by a free level, or an engine, it is called, in the language of the colliers, a winning, i. e. a gaining of the coal.

of 30 fathoms, with  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inch working barrels. What the late tacksman intended, is now carried into effect by the present winning, which commands a very fine breast of coal in both seams. The lowermost seam is yet untouched with this winning. The main seam, now working, consists of

	Feet. Inch.
A mixture of splint cherry coal and rough coal,	- 3 0
Stone, - - - - -	0 4
Rough coal, which includes 9 inches of fine cherry,	3 0
Stone, - - - - -	0 4
Rough coal, - - - - -	1 2
Stone, - - - - -	0 3
Fine strong splint,	1 6
Fine Cherry, - - - - -	0 4
Total between roof and pavement,	<u>9 11</u>

The roof consists of hard blue till, about 10 feet thick, above which are strong posts of freestone, some of which are very hard. The other seam lies 10 fathoms deeper; it is said to be a very fine coal, 7 feet thick, but has some small ribs of stone in it. The average out-put for the last four years is about 30 tons a-day, and so much is the case altered since 1743, that there is a great demand, and the consumption is daily increasing. This coal dips to the E. at the engine, but to the S. E., after passing a large hitch about 500 yards from the engine pit, on the line of bearing at the crop, the dip, or declivity, is exactly a fathom in 3; but, in the dip workings, only one fathom in 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; which gives ground to believe that it will at last flatten altogether, and even crop out at the opposite point of the compass, which, if the case, will make it a very productive colliery.

Balbirnie coal lies both in the Balbirnie estate, the property

ty of John Balbirn, Esq. and in Leslie estate, the property of the Countess of Rothes, being one and the same seam: and is called Leslie or Balbirnie coal, according to the estate, in which the works are for the time. But as almost the whole of it, level free, and more than half the underlevel are in Balbirnie estate, it is generally known by the name of Balbirnie coal \*, and consists of two species, called the little coal and the great coal. The quality of the little coal is extremely good. It is a cherry coal, has something of the caking quality, as it works iron very well, and is the only coal in this part of Fife that will do so; for which purpose the very smallest particles of it are sold to the smiths on the coast of Fife, from Dysart to St. Andrew's, and the whole inland part of the country, extending to 1000 tons annually, besides the quantity of great coal, in the state aftermentioned. It varies in thickness from 6 feet to 4 feet. The distance between roof and pavement is generally the same. When a stone is found in the middle of the seam, the coal diminishes in thickness, as the stone increases, till at last, if the stone be very thick, the coal is so much thinned as to be hardly worth working. This field of coal is not

a regular

\* When this coal was first discovered, cannot now be known, but it appears to have been wrought at an early period near Balbirnie Burns, first by a free level, and afterward by some sort of pumps, at a place called the Pump Sink, to the northward of Balbirnie house. Old pits can be here traced along the crop, but the period these were wrought, is unknown. About the year 1730, George Balbirn, Esquire of Balbirnie, a gentleman who had paid considerable attention to the study of mineralogy, began first to trace the strata by bores and otherwise, from these old wastes, through great part of his estate to the river Leven, nearly one mile distant;—then began at the river, and, by a stone mine across the metals, wrought into the coal, and thus made it level free to a great extent, about the year 1740. By this level, it was wrought from that date, till the year 1780. In sinking the first pit on the level, a seam was found 18 inches thick of the little coal, and through the whole field it is exactly 21 feet above the main coal every where. The same gentleman bored 12 fathoms through the main coal in search of other seams, but found none above 3 inches thick.

a regular one: it lies very nearly in the form of a horse-shoe; supposing it 5 or 6 times broader than ordinary; and the open space of the common size. At the place where first discovered, a little to the N. of the river Leven, the dip was directly S. In working forward, the field divided in two; one level run toward the N. W., another to the N. E., and the crop was wrought till within 12 feet of the surface. The two branches of the level separated further and further, and the two crops did the same, leaving a space of many hundred fathoms between; in which was neither coal, nor appearance of it: this space resembled the open part of the horse-shoe. The increasing consumption of coal will appear from the following state:

From 1740 to 1753, the quantity of coal sold at Balbirnie appears to have been 42,135 loads, or 8,427 tons annually, which, in 23 years, is 192,811	
From 1763 to 1777, both inclusive, the average sales were 46,719	
loads, or 9,343 tons annually,	140,157
From 1778 to 1792, both inclusive, the average quantity was 54,660	
loads *, or 10,932 tons annually,	163,996
In 1784, owing to a scheme of lowering the price of the coal to all who were more than ten miles distant from the coal-works, there was an additional quantity sold, not included in the foregoing average, of	4,047
Total number of tons sold in 52 years,	500,995

On the supposition, that the demand for coal should not increase above the average of the last 15 years, being 10,932 tons annually, but continue the same; and although one half of the whole field of coal were yet entire (which certainly is not the case); an equal quantity would be entirely exhausted in less than 46 years. But the increasing consumption must be immense, when it is considered, that during the first 40 years, there was no other coal-work, except this, to supply this

\* The loads in the above computation contain 27 stone Dutch weight each, which is one third more than the sale load, or load sold to the country. The former is known by the name of the collier's load.

this part of Fife, and that during the last seven years the coal of Balgonie has also been wrought, and has supplied the country with 9000 tons annually, notwithstanding of which, the consumption of this coal is continually on the increase \*.

*Antiquities,*

\* Since 1780, 3 water engines have been erected upon this coal. The first works 2 pumps, 14 inch working barrels; the second, 2 pumps of 11 inches diameter; the third, 2 pumps 15 inch diameter, of the working barrel; and about 20 fathoms left from the coal, to a mine in which the water is delivered 5 fathoms below the surface of the ground. Above the rock is gravel, which admits the winter rains to pass through the numerous cutters in the strata, conveys it down to the coal, and is the great cause of such powerful engines being necessary to drain the coal. It is a pretty general opinion, that all coals are as good in quality, or better, in the dip than towards the crop. Also, that any coal once discovered, may be wrought to any depth from which it is possible to draw the water. But what has recently happened in this very coal, gives reason to believe that opinion, however general, to be erroneous; for, when the engines were first erected, from the favourable appearance of the surface of the ground, composed of flat and gently rising fields of vast extent, and from the extreme flatness of the coal, which did not dip above 1 in 12, often not above 1 foot in 20, it had the appearance of being almost inexhaustable, or, at least, that the under level coal would be much more extensive than the crop already wrought; but the very reverse of this was found to be the case. An engine erected at the trifling depth of 20 fathoms, in the short space of 10 years from its erection, was found not only deep enough, but actually deeper than any coal in that field. In working up the engine level, it was found to go deeper than any part of the coal: dead water was kept till the coal was found entirely cut off in the dip by a gravel dike, composed of gravel and large bullet whin stones, all of them rounded as if they had been long tossed about in water. The level was pushed on through this gravel, till it was found impracticable to proceed with safety to the workmen: the coal was, therefore, wrought along the side of this dike, as deep as there was any coal, and in the progress of the work, the coal to the dip on the west side of the field, which this engine was erected to drain, not only turned out to be of bad quality, but its thickness was diminished by a hard stone which divided the seam in two, extending from 1 to 4 feet in thickness, so hard as only to be wrought with gunpowder; which added so much to the expense, that the coal could not be wrought with profit, and was therefore abandoned altogether, and the third engine erected on the E. part of the same coal where the seam was found 6 feet

*Antiquities, &c.*—Balgonie castle, one of the seats of the Earl of Leven, is a fabric of great antiquity, and considerable

feet thick, without any stone at all. The proprietor wrought up a level along the side of the river Leven, about half a mile in length, which lessened the lift of the engine 5 fathoms. In working up this mine, about 150 fathoms from the place where he intended to erect his engine, he found the metals on edge perfectly perpendicular; a little further, he found them dip 1 fathom in 3, and that to the west, directly contrary to the dip of the coal, and there he found two seams of coal, with 7 fathoms of stone between them; the first, 2½ feet, and the other, 3 feet thick, dip 1 in 3. About 50 fathoms farther, he found that metal rising to the west, the proper rise of the coal in that part of the field. These appearances gave him reason to believe the main coal did not extend far to the dip, but was either cut off by these edge metals, or would be found on the dip separated by a stone into two seams, and suddenly thrown out to the surface in the form of the two seams he had discovered in his mine, by a rise of 2 fathoms in 3, directly contrary to the ordinary crop of the coal. In order to discover this, as soon as the engine was erected, a level mine was pushed on to the eastward: The coal was found perfectly good till he approached within 50 fathoms of the edge metals, where a stone made its appearance in the middle of the coal, one inch thick, 5 fathoms farther, it increased to 18 inches thick, and continued to increase till it was found impracticable to be wrought, and appeared fairly to divide the seam of coal in two, corresponding in thickness to the two edge seams he had discovered in the said mine. The coal continues flat, but it can hardly be doubted, that if the level is driven 20 fathoms farther, it will rise the opposite way, 1 fathom in 3\*. Since this is the case upon the E. part of the field, it is not easy to account, why the same thing has not happened on the west part of the same field, where the gravel dike intervenes, and cuts off the coal in place of the edge metals: the probability is, that the edge metals are also there, and that the coal will terminate and be thrown out to the surface by them in the same way, though in this part the gravel dike seems to be thrust in, between the flat and the edge metals; and is of great thickness, as a trial was made at right angles, a hundred fathoms distant, and 17 fathoms

\* Since writing the above, an upset has been pushed forward, and the coal actually found to rise, as supposed above, 1 fathom in 5; and it will, no doubt, a little further on, rise 1 fathom in 3, and crop out at the surface; and the stone will increase in thickness, till it is found 7 fathoms at the surface, and the main coal is thrown out there, in the form of the two seams, above mentioned.

derable strength. The time when it was built cannot be exactly ascertained; but from the best information that can

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thorn deep, where, in place of the rock and ordinary metals above the coal, nothing but gravel was found; from which it may be concluded, that the dike exceeds 100 fathoms in thickness, how much more, it is hard to say; at the distance of another 100 fathoms, the edge metals are seen in this part of the field also, which destroys every hope of the main coal being again found beyond the dike. From what has appeared in the east part of the field, it seems pretty certain, that if the coal is found at all, it will be in the form of two seams on edge, thrust suddenly up to the surface by these edge metals, and consequently of small extent and little value.

From what is above recited, it may be inferred, that it is not always safe to trust to the dip side of a seam of coal being of value, though the crop has been found good, which was the case here, the crop having been wrought for 40 years, and every where in the natural level found good, and yet the dip on the west half of the field has been exhausted in less than 12 years, at least, all that was found valuable in it; how long the dip of the east part of the field now working may last, it is hard to say, though it is scarce possible, allowing the quality to be good through the whole extent of the known field, that any coal will remain to work 50 years hence.

From the foregoing history of two valuable fields of coal, and facts above recited, some very important conclusions may be drawn, viz.

1. The limited and small extent of coal fields.
2. The increasing consumption of the coal and its limited extent, gives reason to apprehend its being totally exhausted.

The limited extent of all coal, may be inferred from its being impossible to trace any, very far in the line of bearing. Balgonie coal may be ranked among the regular ones, as the line of bearing is the same with the general bearing of the strata in the greatest part of Britain, where they are not thrown out of their course by adventitious causes, such as dikes, mountain rocks of a different species from the strata that accompany coal, and sometimes by the waving and twisting of the coal metals themselves, which frequently alter the line of bearing, as well as the dip of the coal, to all the points of the compass. Such regular seams as this, with so considerable a dip, may be thrown out of their course by dikes and slips, but generally keep the same line of bearing. The very flat seams, such as Balbirnie coal, being much more liable to wave and twist, till the dip and crop are in the opposite direction from the regular course of bearing. It may be worth inquiry, why the most regular seams of coal can be seldom pursued in the line of bearing above a few miles, for the

fact

be got, it appears to be of the same age with the cathedral of St. Andrew's, which was built in the 12th century.

The fact is, few or no seams in this part of Fife, reach above 2 or 3 miles in length at most; and many not half that distance; for instance, Dysart coal which has the same line of bearing with Balgonie, has been wrought from the sea-side about 2 miles, where, neat the water of Orr, it is entirely cut off and no more seen. About half a mile E., and 1 mile N., the S. extremity of Balgonie coal appears, and keeps the same line of bearing, as well as resembles Dysart coal somewhat in quality, but not in thickness; Dysart coal being 22 feet, and Balgonie coal only 9 feet thick; the declivity pretty much the same. At the distance of 3 miles, this coal, and all the strata accompanying it, is also cut off; and not the least vestige or appearance of that coal, or any other, has been discovered within some miles of it. Wemyss coal, Methel, and Durrie coal, are as regular seams as either Dysart or Balgonie, but none of them can be traced farther in the line of bearing; they are all cut off in the same manner before they are 2 miles from the sea. The more inland coals distant 8 or 10 miles from the Frith of Forth, such as Burntark, Pitlessie, Divan, and Clatty, are situated on the sides of hills of small extent, the metals of which have no continued line either of bearing or declivity; and the coal in these situations consequently subject to all the irregularities ever found in coal works. Some of the seams are even seen to crop out quite round a small eminence. And even small as the extent of these fields is, the coal is found full of dikes, hitches, and all imaginable troubles; which render them scarce worth working. Beyond this, in the flat country, along the banks of the Eden, no coal has ever been discovered. And from this to the Tay, there are no strata ever discovered that indicate coal being there: nor are there sufficient symptoms even to encourage trials for coal, with any rational hope of success.

The Fife coals, even the most regular, being thus contrasted in the line of bearing, are comparatively of very small extent, compared with the idea a stranger has of them, on a slight view of the number of pits he sees at work on the various seams. Such a person, if unacquainted with the natural history of coal and its strata, is apt to suppose the whole country full of coal; the very dikes and interruptions in the bearing of the strata, increases the deception, showing, as he supposes, a still greater number of seams and extent of coal. For instance, a person unacquainted with the interruptions met with in coal fields, sees Dysart coal and Balgonie both at work, he imagines the one may be wrought N. on the line of bearing, as far as the Lomonds, 6 miles distant, and the other S. to the sea, and N. to the Eden; whenever the proprietors choose to do so; and hence he concludes, both coals almost inexhaustible: but investigate

tary. This castle is pleasantly situated on the S. bank of the Leven, elevated about 36 feet above the bed of the river.

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the subject thoroughly by proper judges, and they will declare the attempt vain, to pursue the one further N., or the other either S. or N., than it has been already done. And what he imagined inexhaustible seams, may possibly be entirely wrought out in less than 100 years. I shall not attempt to account for the frequent interruptions in the line of bearing of the coal, and all other strata. I have only pointed out the fact, that neither coal nor any other strata whatever, can be traced to any considerable distance, without such interruptions being met with. What actually happened in working the dip of Balbirny coal, may happen in a hundred others, where the probability of the dip being both good and extensive, cannot possibly be greater, than it was in that very coal, till it was actually tried. One fact seems to be established by it, that some coals do not extend to any very great depth from the surface. But after continuing to dip for some time, they rise the contrary way, and crop out to the surface on a point of the compass diametrically opposite to the former crop. Many could be pointed out which actually do so, though the greater part of seams may reach to so great a depth, and may at that depth be so altered by dikes and slips, as to throw the opposite crop, or rise to such a distance, as often prevents its being perceived to be the same seam, though it actually be so. This example, proves coal to be limited in extent in a different way. And, that it is by no means certain that coal can be had in the dip, though good in the crop, and wrought there above 40 years.

2. The increasing consumption of coal, and its limited extent, gives reason to apprehend its being totally exhausted.

It seems to be the opinion of the publick, that coal is inexhaustible. Government appears to have adopted the same opinion, in allowing such immense quantities of coal to be exported to all the nations in Europe. It is greatly to be wished, that this opinion were well founded; but it is contradicted by incontrovertible facts. It is not above 200 years since coal came into common use, and it is highly probable the first 150 years of that period did not exhaust so much of it as the last 50 years. Examine all the coal fields, not in Fife only, but through all Britain, and it will be found that every part of them near to a sea-port, and many of the inland seams of coal, are not only exhausted to the depth of the natural level, but almost all of them already wrought, and exhausting fast by fire and water engines, many of which are very deep. It will also be found, that the quantity already wrought is probably at least equal to the quantities yet to work of all the known seams of coal within the island. It might, perhaps, be an object worthy of being investigated by Government; for if the is-

is of a quadrangular form, and stands upon an area of 135 feet by 105. The open court within, is 108 feet by 65. The tower,

use of their research should be, as there is a high probability it would, that there was not a sufficient fund of coal unexhausted in the island of Britain to supply the present demand for 200 years to come, it is probable they would think it proper to interfere and prevent the too rapid consumption of an article indispensably necessary to the very existence, not only of the capital and other great cities, but to almost every species of manufacture, and to the many thousand artificers employed in them. Such could not even exist without a plentiful supply of coal, in a country so destitute of wood as Great Britain is. The superiority which the possession of coal gives to her manufactures, on the failure of that supply, would be instantly transferred to those nations in Europe, possessed of a sufficient quantity of wood for their consumption.

It is not difficult to account how Government, and the nation at large, are lulled into security on this point. The proprietors of coal have an interest in a great and immediate consumption. No matter from what it arises; immediate profit is the object, whether from the home or foreign market. The rest of mankind have little opportunity, and still less inclination to investigate a subject of which the greater part have a very superficial knowledge. It is not the less necessary that the alarm be given; the danger, upon candid inquiry, will not be found ideal. Great dependence is sometimes placed upon the discovery of new seams of coal, never before known; but if it be considered, that there is scarcely a seam of coal of any consequence in Great Britain, which has not been known to exist for half a century, and that scarce a new discovery of coal has been heard of during that period, to what is this to be imputed? Not to the want of trials, for of these numbers have been made without success; but as it is an established fact, that every seam of coal, as well as all other strata, rise and crop out, at or very near the surface of the ground, there is a high probability that few valuable seams of coal could remain so long undiscovered. As in every extensive field, the chance is, that some part of the crop will approach so near the surface, as to be laid open by rivers, canals, rivulets in little glens, and not seldom the rise or outburst of the coal, will be seen in the form of a black dust, mixed with small particles of coal, in common ditches, where nothing is meant but the enclosure of the ground. Such appearances should, and, I suppose, generally are examined. By such means the greater number of coals already known, have been discovered. And though others may exist not yet discovered, there is little reason to suppose the number or extent of such undiscovered seams to be very considerable.

The extent of the coal fields in Britain is very inconsiderable, when compared with

ower \*, which stands on the N. side, and near  
is 45 feet by 36 over the walls, and 80 fe

with the immense tracts that have no coal metals (or company coal), nor any appearance to indicate coal being. But the coal fields themselves are very far from containing. The county of Fife, for instance, is a coal field, and has publication, on the causes of the scarcity of coal, as containing a vast fund of that useful mineral, and as every where assertion could be more slenderly founded; it is probably that for every acre in Fife containing unwrought coal, there are many others that have no coal in them, nor any rational probability. That there is still much coal in Fife, is a certain fact; Britain is better stored with it, it is equally certain, than the whole quantity in the kingdom is already exhausted. The remaining half must be wrought with engines at a vast expense; and it is absolutely certain whether, in quantity or quality, it may be coals already exhausted. To prove what is above alleged, will be very difficult. Take all the coals in Fife, wrought one after another, examine consumption, and the quantity within the last ten years, and compare this with the quantity the proprietor supposes to contain coal as deep as there is in the ground, it would immediately be known, supposing the remaining coal would supply the rate of consumption. Such an inquiry, I am afraid, would not be easily made, and that another century will consume the whole.

\* Connected with the tower is a house of 3 stories, built by Sir James Leslie, extending to the N. E. corner; and on the other side of the court, another house of the same height, built by the present owner. From the vaults under these new buildings, and the walls in the lower story, it appears probable that they were equally extensive, and that the new houses had been built upon the foundations of the old. On the S. and W. sides of the court, there is a wall which appears to be coeval with the tower: and within the middle of an oblong square, inclusive of 300 acres, is a large fossé, the remains of which are still to be seen on the W. side, beside which, and under the wall, there is a dungeon, or dark cell in the bottom of the tower. Near it there is a garden of about 7 acres, enclosed high, and a great deal of fine old trees around. B

is surrounded with battlements, projecting about a foot beyond the walls. The roof, which appears to have been repeatedly repaired since it was first built, is raised in the middle, and between that and the battlements, it is flat, and covered with stones. The walls of the two lower stories, both of which are vaulted, are  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick: but above that, they are only 7 feet thick. There is an apartment in it called the Chapel, and, in the wall on the opposite side of the court, the ruins of a room are still to be seen, which was called the Chaplain's Room. The architecture of this tower is still very perfect and entire, and the third story hath been lately repaired by the present Lord Balgonie. About half a mile to E. of Balgonie, and on the same side of the Leven, is Balfour or Balor, an old building, standing in the middle of some fine enclosures, and surrounded with a good deal of old plantations. This place gave the name of Balfour to a very ancient family, from which the Balfours in Fife, of whom there is a considerable number, it is thought, mostly sprung\*. On the west side, and about half a mile from the parish church, stands Balbirnie, which anciently belonged to Bal-

birnie

belonged to a family of the name of Sibbald, was purchased in the reign of Charles I., by General Leslie, who was created Earl of Leven by that monarch, in 1641. Towards the end of the last century, David, second son of George Earl of Melvill, married the Countess and heiress of Leven, in consequence of which, the estates and titles of the two Earldoms came to be united in the same family, as Lord Raith, the eldest son of the said Earl of Melvill died without issue.

\* In the 5th of the reign of Robert II., John, laird of Balfour, dying without male issue, Robert Bethune, also of an ancient family in Fife, married his daughter, the heiress of Balfour, still, however, retaining the name of Bethune. From this house, several respectable families of the name of Bethune have descended. James Bethune, archbishop of St. Andrew's, and Chancellor of Scotland, his nephew David Bethune, Cardinal and Chancellor of Scotland, and the Cardinal's nephew, James Bethune, archbishop of Glasgow, were all three of this house of Balfour.

olmrie of that ilk, but which, for some generations back, hath been in the possession of a family of the name of Balfour. A considerable part of the old house still remains, and is kept in good repair; on the south side of which, and connected with it, the present proprietor hath built a neat commodious modern house. The situation is rather low and concealed; but delightfully romantick. In front, there is a pretty extensive lawn thinly and irregularly planted with different kinds of trees. The surrounding eminences, as well as all the low marshy ground near it, are covered with fine thriving plantations of barren wood. Besides the attention paid to the pleasure ground around the house, the present proprietor has of late greatly beautified, as well as meliorated his estate in the neighbourhood, by enclosing regular fields with belts of plantation; and by placing clumps of trees on the higher grounds, arranged and disposed in such a manner, as at once to please the eye, and to afford shelter to the adjacent fields.

The steeple of Markinch is another ancient building, and from the similarity of the workmanship, is probably of the same age with Balgonie castle. It is about 15 feet square, and preserves its thickness till it rises to 80 feet high. From that to the top, it is about 24 feet, drawing to a point, in a pyramidal form. From its elevated situation, it is seen at a considerable distance in several directions; and forms the termination of a beautiful view from the house of Leslie, the seat of the Countess of Rothes, which stands about 3 miles to the westward of Markinch. Markinch hill is a beautiful object. It lies on the north side of the village, and is of an oblong oval form, and 200 yards in length. On the northern declivity, there are 6 terraces of about 20 feet broad, and which extend the whole length of the hill, winding round the east end of it. They are evidently artificial; but nothing certain

certain can be learned as to their original use and design<sup>i</sup>. The publick road from Markinch to the north, passes the west end of this hill, and, on a rising ground, on the opposite side of the road; stands a broad stone about 7 feet high, called the Stobb Cross. It is a very coarse piece of work, without any sculpture or characters on it, that can lead to the knowledge of the design of its erection †.

On the eastern extremity of the parish, in the farm of Duniface, mortified to the United College of St. Andrew's, by a gentleman of the name of Ramsay, for the education of 4 bursars at that college, there is a hill or eminence not unlike the one just now mentioned. On the north end of this hill, there is a spot of ground which rises higher than the rest, and is called the Maiden Castle, fenced on the south side by ditches, the vestiges of which remain to this day ‡.

#### *Character*

\* Two reports prevail; the one is, that these terraces were originally ditches, intended to strengthen an encampment, or military post on the top of the hill; but that they have been levelled since for the purpose of tillage. The other report is, that they were made to accommodate spectators, assembled to behold certain public games, performed in the plain below; which plain is called the Play-fields to this day.

† Vulgar tradition says, that it was erected to the memory of a gentleman, who fell on this spot, in a mortal encounter with one of his neighbours. As this cross stands upon the very edge of the road, and 6 or 10 feet above its level, it has been in danger of tumbling down, by the earth's falling away from it. The present Earl of Leven, therefore, caused it to be secured, by facing up the earth with a wall of stone and lime.

‡ Boethius calls it "Arx septinalis totidem fossis munita, olim possedit Fife Duffi, cuius posteritas, per multa secula, eam tenuere." Some pretend it was a seat of M'Duff, Earl of Fife, and that there was anciently a subterraneous passage from it to Brunton, which lies about a quarter of a mile to the E. of Markinch church, and where Malcolm, Earl of Fife, had a castle. It is said that the entrance to this passage at Brunton was shut up so lately as in the time of the late John Simpson of Brunton. Near the Maiden Castle a battle has been fought, probably between the Scots and Danes, as a great many stone-coffins, with human bones in them, have been lately discovered in the immediate neighbour-

*Character of the People.*—It would be sacrificing truth to complaisance, to say that there are no worthless or exceptionable characters in this parish. The number of such, however, is comparatively small. The great body of the people are sober, peaceable, and industrious. Their attendance on the public ordinances of religion is punctual and exemplary, and their moral conduct correspondent to their profession. It is worthy of notice, that the colliers of Markinch possess a respectability in point of character, to which few other colliers in the kingdom can pretend. In them you see nothing of that gross ignorance, that roughness and barbarity of manners, that extravagance and disorderly behaviour, but too generally characteristical of this description of men. On the contrary, with a very few exceptions, they are remarkably intelligent, attentive to the duties of religion, civil and obliging in their manners, sober, frugal and diligent; in consequence of which, they and their families live comfortably, and make a decent appearance. It deserves also to be mentioned, to the honour of this parish, that during the late ferment, when designing, factious, and turbulent men were endeavouring to disturb the public tranquillity, and to alienate the affections of the people from the mild and equal government under which they live, their loyalty to their King, and attachment to the Constitution remained uncorrupted. They joined no discontented associations; they imbibed no seditious principles; but every man attended to the duties of his station, and left the modelling and mending of constitutions to others, as a business beyond their sphere, and above their abilities.

hood. In several other parts of the parish, coffins of the same kind have, at different times, been discovered. One, in particular, was found about 7 years ago on the Headlaw, between Markinch and Balgonie. It was of a square form, made of four unhewn slabs of freestone, set edge-ways, and covered with a broad stone of the same kind, upon which was laid a large unformed mass of stone, and above all, a heap or cairn of small stones. The bones enclosed in it were calcined.

## STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of MARKINCH.

Number of souls, -	2790	Number of wrights, -	16
— males, - -	1364	— smiths, - -	11
— females, - -	1426	— shoemakers, - -	20
— families, - -	653	— tailors, - -	9
— married couples,	475	— brewers, - -	4
— widowers, - -	36	— gardeners, - -	5
— widows, - -	65	— midwives, - -	2
— average of marriages annually, - -	20	— colliers, including overseers, drawers, &c. - -	100
— of births *, - -	63	— coopers, - -	2
— under 2 years of age, 200		— bakers, - -	3
— between 2 and 10, 538		— wheelwrights, - -	2
— — — 10 and 20, 524		— flaxdressers, - -	8
— — — 20 and 30, 469		— stocking-makers, -	2
— — — 30 and 40, 393		— dyers, - -	2
— — — 40 and 50, 272		— turner, - -	1
— — — 50 and 60, 176		— shopkeepers, - -	4
— — — 60 and 70, 147		— male servants, - -	136
— — — 70 and 80, 58		— female servants, - -	120
— — — 80 and 90, 13		— labourers, - -	65
— heritors, - -	21	— horses above 1 year old, - -	383
— residing heritors, 11		— black cattle above 1 year old, - -	1540
— feuars, - -	120	— sheep, - -	300
— farmers, - -	60	Valued rent, 871l. 7s. 1d. Sterling.	
— teachers, - -	7	Real rent of land belonging	
— notary publicks, 2		ing	
— plasterer, - -	1		
— weavers, - -	160		
— masons, - -	24		

\* There is no register of burials.

ing to the heritors, 5000l.	Number of corn-mills,	10
Sterling.	— lint-mills,	- - 7
Rents of feuars property, 480l.	— barley-mills,	- - 4
Sterling.	— wauk-mills,	- - 2
Number of inns, - - 2	— flour-mill,	- - 1
— post-chaises, - - 5	— oil-mill,	- - 1
— carts, - - - 100	— collieries,	- - 2
— ale-houses, - - - 11	— coal engines,	- - 4
— bleachfield, - - - 1		

## NUMBER XXXVII.

## UNITED PARISHES \* OF LYNE AND MEGGET.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN  
AND TWEEDDALE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ANDREW HANDYSIDE.*

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*Extent, Name, Soil, Culture, &c. of Lyne.*

THE parish of Lyne is between 3 and 4 miles long, and near 3 broad. The origin of the name is uncertain, perhaps from the Gaelic word Linn, "a pool or water." The river, which runs from one extremity of the parish to the other,

\* It appears from the Scots Acts of Parliament, (vol. i. p. 960.) that the parish of Rodonno, or Megget, was annexed to that of Lyne, about the year 1611; and that this took place in consequence of a joint petition from the proprietor and inhabitants of the former parish, to the Lords Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks, desiring that they might henceforth be considered as a part of the latter. It is singular that Megget should not have been united to one of the neighbouring

ther, is so called, and being one of the largest that falls into Tweed in this county, might obtain the name of Linn, or the Water, by way of eminence; and the name might afterward be transferred to the parish. The lower part of the parish is, in general, of a sharp gravelly soil, requiring frequent showers in summer. The upper part is hilly, and affords good pasture for sheep, consisting of a proper mixture of heath and grass. In the year 1782, the crop in this parish did not suffer so much from the frost, as in several of the neighbouring ones. The sharp nature of the soil, and the southern exposure of the corn-lands, may account for this. The whole parish is, at present, divided into two farms; but about 60 years ago, it was possessed by no fewer than 7 small tenants. The quantity of grain raised in it is not great, as the number of acres under tillage does not, at an average, exceed 160. The rotation of crops observed, is the old one of bear with dung, then oats, then pease. Potatoes are also raised for family use. No grass has hitherto been sown, nor turnips cultivated by the farmers. This is to be ascribed chiefly to the want of enclosures, without which, these crops cannot be easily protected from the sheep and cattle, during the winter and spring.

*Extent, Surface, &c. of Megget.*—The parish of Megget is situated in the southern extremity of the county. It is between 6 and 7 miles in length, and near 6 in breadth. The surface is very hilly. The tops of the hills are, in general, covered with heath, and coarse grass, but the lower parts produce excellent pasture both for sheep and cattle. The climate is not, upon the whole, unhealthy, though from the high situation of the country, it is damp and cold. On this account

the

neighbouring parishes, rather than to Lyne, which is so distant from it. Perhaps the smallness both of the stipends and cures might be the chief reason; besides, both parishes at that period belonged wholly to one proprietor, Lord Hay of Yester, and it is more than probable that he had considerable influence in procuring the annexation.

the inhabitants are more subject to rheumatisms, than to any other complaint. The water of Megget rises at the head of the parish, and, after running the whole length of it, falls into St. Mary's Loch, a beautiful expanse of fresh water. This loch, with the loch of the Lows, from which it is separated by a narrow neck of land, may be near 5 miles long, and, in some places, 24 broad. Trout, pike, and eel, are found in both; they are frequented by water-fowl of different kinds, particularly by wild-ducks. The quantity of grain raised in Megget is very inconsiderable, and insufficient, even in the best seasons, to maintain its inhabitants. But the quantity that Lyne can annually spare, would, upon an average, fully answer all the demands of Megget.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in Lyne and Megget in 1755, was 265. The population of Lyne parish in the 1792, was 72.

Under the age of 10,	16	Females, - - - -	38
From 10 to 20, - -	25	Number of horses, -	18
From 20 to 50, - -	22	black cattle, -----	64
From 50 to 70, - -	5	ploughs, - - - -	4
From 70 to 100, - -	4	carts, - - - -	9
Males, - - - - -	34		

The population of Megget in 1792, was 80.

Under 10 years, - -	10	Number of inhabited houses, - - - - -	12
From 10 to 20, - -	16	of acres under tillage, -----	40
From 20 to 50, - -	42	of horses, - - - -	15
From 50 to 70, - -	10	black cattle, - - - -	54
From 70 to 100, - -	2	ploughs, - - - -	3
Males, - - - - -	37		
Females, - - - - -	43		

The number of sheep in both parishes is between 10,000 and 11,000.

As during the summer there are 12 or 13 servants more in Megget, and 3 or 4 more in Lyne parish, mostly females, employed in milking ewes, making hay, &c. the population of both parishes will amount, at a medium, to about 160\*.

There are no artificers nor mechanicks in either parish, except 1 carpenter at Lyne, who has commonly 2 or 3 apprentices. The rest of the inhabitants are wholly composed of farmers, shepherds, and labourers, with their families. Their mode of living and dress is much improved of late, and they enjoy, in moderation, the comforts and conveniences of life. They are far from being illiberal in their religious sentiments, and are truly exemplary for decency and hospitality. All the parishioners join in communion with the Established Church, except 4 or 5 Cameronians, and sometimes 2 or 3 Seceders.

*Church, Stipend, Heritors, &c.*—The church is an old edifice, and appears to have been originally a Roman Catholic chapel. It was, till lately, in a state almost ruinous, but is now undergoing a thorough repair. It will afterward be a commodious place for divine service. In Megget, there is neither church nor chapel of any kind. Public worship is therefore performed in the different farm-houses by rotation, which is far from being either decent or convenient. The value of the stipend, including the glebe, is about 83 l., besides the manse. His Grace of Queensberry is patron. He is also proprietor of both parishes, except the farm of Henderland, and a small heritage, called Lyn-townhead. Lord Hender-

land,

\* No parochial register, either of births, marriages, or deaths, is to be found; but it is highly probable that the population of both parishes has decreased considerably, during the last 40 years.

land, one of the senators of the College of Justice, is proprietor of the former, and takes his title from that farm. It is not easy to ascertain the real rent of the parish, as fines or grassums are taken at the beginning of leases, instead of advanced rent.

*Instance of Longevity, &c.*—The only remarkable instance of longevity that can be remembered, is that of the late minister, the Rev. Mr. Johnston. Though his age cannot be fully authenticated, as the register of the parish where he was born is lost, yet there is good reason to believe, that he died at the advanced age of about 102. In his dress and diet he was very homely and simple. Regarding the manners and customs to which he had been so long habituated, as a model for succeeding ages, in the decline of life he considered every deviation from them as a corruption. He had a strong antipathy to medicine of every kind, and it is doubtful if ever he made use of any in his life, except once. He enjoyed a state of health almost uninterrupted, officiated in public the Sabbath before his death, and was getting out of bed, in order to prepare for the duties of the next Sabbath, when he expired suddenly, in a fainting fit, without a groan.

*Poor.*—There are no poor in this parish, nor have there been any upon the poor's roll for many years past. This is owing not only to the frugality and industry of the inhabitants, but also to their sense of honour, and independent spirit. In establishing poor's rates, the design is certainly laudable, but experience teaches us that they are attended with many bad consequences. Wherever men can depend on suitable provision being made for them, when reduced to indigence, they are divested of the proper stimulus to exertion; they soon lose the sense of shame, and are tempted to squander away in dissipation, what

what would otherwise have been laid up for the evil day. Some of the neighbouring parishes are striking instances of the truth of this observation. In our sister kingdom, the evil is still growing worse and worse. If not speedily corrected, the burden of poor's rates will, in a short time, become altogether grievous and oppressive.

*Sheep.*—Both in Megget and Lyne, the sheep are all of the black-faced, common Scotch kind, and they are not inferior in quality to any of that kind in this part of Scotland. After repeated experiments, the farmers in this district, are convinced that their own breed is more hardy, of a better shape, and more easily fed than any other breed with which they are acquainted. Besides, they maintain, that there is a greater demand from England for Scotch sheep, than for those of any other kind. For these reasons, they apprehend that it would be very dangerous for them, whose dependence is solely upon their sheep, to attempt any innovation, in this respect, unless it were done on a very small scale. Upon the banks of Yarrow water, a cross breed, with finer wool, has been gaining ground for some time past, but they are found not to thrive so well when carried to the higher grounds in Tweeddale. It is true, that an attempt has been lately made, with considerable success, to change the breed upon a farm near the head of Moffat water; but it ought to be considered, that though some of the land in that farm be among the highest in the S. of Scotland, yet a considerable part of it is not only low, but sheltered in such a manner, that when the farms in Megget are completely strown with snow, the sheep on that farm are at no loss for pasture. It is admitted, that the wool of the black-faced sheep, is, in general, very coarse, but perhaps considerable improvement might be made on it, by paying more attention than is usually done, to the fleece of the

rams and ewes, which are kept as a breeding stock. After all, if it can be ascertained, from experiment and undoubted facts, that any change whatever, either in the kind or management of sheep, will, upon the whole, be more advantageous to the farmers, than the mode at present adopted, it is not to be doubted, that the sagacity of that class of men, in this county, will soon induce them to pursue that plan.

*Causes of Depopulation.*—The causes commonly assigned for the decrease of population in this district, are the demolishing of cottages, and the junction of sheep-farms. With respect to the first, farmers are now generally convinced of the necessity of encouraging cottagers, by building houses for them, though the reverse was too much the practice a few years ago. Cottagers, by living at a distance from towns, are commonly strangers to dissipation and vice, their children are often numerous and healthy, and almost always make the best country servants. But, with regard to the second cause, men of observation are not so unanimous. For it has been warmly disputed, whether extensive farms be, upon the whole, favourable or unfavourable to the population and prosperity of a country. Before we can determine this point, it is necessary that we attend to the situation and circumstances of the country where the farms lie. In the vicinity of a large town, where plenty of manure can be procured, or, in a rich soil, where, by means of lime and marl, cultivation may be carried to a high pitch, farms of a moderate extent are certainly proper, because the culture of them requires many hands, and much attention. But in proportion as farms are more distant from the means of improvement, and the soil of them less rich, in the same proportion, it would appear, may they increase in size, because the quantity of land under tillage being necessarily small, less attention and industry are requisite.

If this reasoning be well founded, it is evident that small farms may sometimes be united, and larger farms, in some cases, divided to advantage. But it may be said, does not the junction of small farms tend, in every instance, to diminish the population of a country, and is not the publick sufferer by it? We must admit, that where the industry of the small farmer and his family cannot be turned into another channel equally beneficial to themselves and the community, this will be the case. On the other hand, at a period when the demand for manufacturers is great, and their wages high, it may be advantageous both to the individuals and the publick, that some of the small farmers become manufacturers. The case of this useful class of men, is indeed much to be pitied, when they are turned out of their small possessions, where there is no demand for their labour in any other line; they must then either emigrate or starve, and the country will, in a short time, severely feel the loss. It appears, then, that the state of trade and manufactures must have considerable influence in regulating the size of farms; so that what would be sound policy in this respect, at one period, would be the reverse at another. If it be said, that after all, the interest of the proprietor will naturally induce him to prefer the highest offer for his lands; and that as the extensive farmer can afford to give more rent than small tenants, the former will obtain the preference, and farms will continually increase in size; in answer to this, it may be observed, that neither the proprietor nor the farmer, even in a sheep country, will find it his advantage that the farm be more extensive than what one person can properly manage. The proper check, then, when farms become overgrown, appears to be at hand; and the wisdom of providence is equally conspicuous in this, as in many other instances, which often escape our observation.

On the whole, it will perhaps be found to be the soundest policy, that no restraint whatever be imposed either upon farming, commerce, or manufactures. When left to themselves, they will have a strong mutual influence on each other, and though one of them may appear to gain too great an ascendancy at a time, yet it will soon be checked by the others, and descend to its own proper level. When Government is so wise as not to interfere in these matters, it will find its advantage in the increasing prosperity of the whole state.

*Antiquities.*—About 1 of a mile W. of Lyne church, there is a famous Roman camp of about 6 acres in extent. The situation of it appears to have been chosen with great judgment. The road leading to it is still visible, and runs through the present glebe. The ground within the encampment has been frequently ploughed, and it is said, that Roman coins, &c. were frequently found in it. But as this camp has been often described, it is judged unnecessary to insist more on it. In Megget there are the remains of 2 old towers, which appear to have been built, partly for defence, partly for accommodating the Kings of Scotland when on their hunting parties in the forest. The traces of 3 or 4 roads in different directions across the hills are still visible, at what period, or with what design they were formed, is uncertain. Perhaps when the country was covered with wood, they were cut out for the King and his suite when they went a-hunting. At Henderland, there are the remains of an old chapel and burying-ground. The inscription on the tomb-stone of the famous freebooter, Cockburn of Henderland, is still legible. Boetius, Buchanan, and other historians, inform us, that gold was formerly found in Glengaber water, and some small traces still remain of the ground which had been dug in search of that precious metal.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Though a great part of the land in Lyne and Megget has been formerly covered with wood, yet, at present, there are only a few trees around the church and some of the farm-houses. The old trees naturally decay through time, and the growth of young ones is effectually prevented by the sheep and cattle. In Megget, there is plenty of moorfowl in good seasons. The earn, a species of eagle that builds its nest in a small island in Lochfkene, sometimes carries off a young lamb, even in view of the shepherd. Besides the necessary attention which the flocks of sheep require, the inhabitants of Megget are mostly employed during the summer and autumn in making and carrying home their peats, in cutting and leading in their hay, and in laying up provision for the winter.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—At Lyne, the distance from coals and lime is not great, the roads are good, and there are 2 convenient bridges over the water. Thirlage is a grievance justly complained of. The want of a salary for a school-master, is hard on the lower class of people. Megget labours under particular disadvantages. There is no school of any kind nearer to it, than that of Yarrow, which is 8 or 9 miles' distant. This want is severely felt, especially by servants who have large families, who must either send their children to a great distance for education, or be at the expense of teaching them at home. Yet, much to their credit, they are not inferior in religious knowledge to any of their neighbours. This must be ascribed chiefly to the diligence and attention of their parents, who are at considerable pains to instill into the tender minds of their offspring, the principles of piety and virtue. There was indeed the sum of 50l. Sterling mortified by a former minister of Lyne, and the interest of it was intended as a salary for a teacher; but, though that sum

sum be now increased to 80 l. Sterling, yet the interest of it is far from being sufficient to support an established schoolmaster. Among the disadvantages peculiar to Megget, its great distance from Lyne church, which is about 14 miles, ought not to be omitted. The river Tweed runs between them, and the road is remarkably bad and steep.

*Means of Melioration.*—As Megget is sometimes almost inaccessible during 2 or 3 months in winter, on account of the steep hills and rough roads, nothing would tend more to promote the comfort and convenience of its inhabitants, than a passable road up Manor water. If it were carried up the narrow glen opposite to Manor-head, which is practicable, and afterward down Glengaber water, great part of the present steep pull would be saved, and the traveller would derive essential benefit from it. It is true, that the expense would be considerable, but the sum which was lately expended in obtaining an act of parliament for making roads in the county, would have been sufficient for making that road. It is certainly very hard, especially on poor counties, when they are obliged to spend about 400 l. Sterling, in order to obtain leave to lay out their own money in the way they think best. The writer of this has no object in view, but the good of his country; and it will be admitted, that few things are more conducive to its improvement, than good roads upon a liberal plan, and in a proper direction. As this is a national concern, and not confined to any particular district, it is to be hoped, that at some future period it may meet with all the attention it deserves.

That considerable improvement has been lately made on the roads, cannot be denied; but it will also be admitted, that they are far from having attained that perfection, either in the direction or execution of them, to which they may be carried.

carried. It is certainly the interest of every member of the community, that the communication from one place to another be rendered as easy as possible ; but gentlemen of landed property appear to be more concerned in this than others : For, if their tenants are obliged, on account of the steepness and roughness of the road, to employ 4 carts in carrying what would otherwise have been an easy load for 3, it is evident that the expense must ultimately fall upon the proprietor. Though the management of the money arising from turnpikes is, with great propriety, committed to the trustees of the different counties, yet it may be doubted if the planning and original direction of the roads be safest in the same hands. Wherever men are interested, there they are not competent judges ; this is perhaps the reason, that, in making roads, the publick interest is sometimes sacrificed to the pretended interest of individuals. Were the gentlemen of the different counties to agree, that the planning of the roads in their own county should be left to a deputation of gentleman from a neighbouring one, the objection would, in a great measure, be obviated ; for, in that case, private or political interest would have small influence. With regard to the great roads through the kingdom, would it not be of advantage to the nation, were commissioners appointed by parliament, under proper restrictions, to superintend this branch of publick police ; and if 2 or 3 engineers were added to the commission, we might reasonably expect, that beauty and utility would soon be united, and their joint labours tend, in a considerable degree, to promote the publick good.

## NUMBER XXXVIII.

## PARISH OF CAMBUSNEATHAN.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN LOCKHART.*

*Name, Situation, Extent, Rivers, &c.*

CAM-UISE, in the Gaelic language, signifies “curve, or bend of water.” The old church of this parish was situated near a fine bending of the river Clyde, and seems to have been dedicated to St. Nethan, whom Archbishop Usher, in his Britt. Ecc. Ant. calls “Religiosissimus et doctissimus Nethan.” This saint is supposed to be the St. Neftanus, mentioned in D. Chambers’s catalogue. This parish is situated in the middle ward of Lanarkshire, and commissariot of Hamilton and Campsie. The length of the parish, in a N. E. direction from Clyde to the confines of Whitburn, is nearly 12, and its average breadth about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  English miles. It is

$14$  miles

14 miles distant from Glasgow, 9 from Lanark, and 4 from Hamilton, which is the market and post-town. The Clyde affords salmon, pike, trout, and parps. The Calder is little more than a rivulet, and is remarkable for the beauty of its banks. There is another small stream, which runs across the higher part of the parish, called the Auchter.

*Surface and Soil.*—The haughs on the Clyde are extensive and beautiful. A considerable part of them forms a lawn in front of the manion-house of Cambusnethan; the other part is regularly enclosed, and well cultivated. On the bank, which rises over the haugh-grounds, there are extensive orchards; behind these, coppice-woods, or regular plantations, afford a complete shelter from the easterly winds. From the river to the summit of the bank, the average distance is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an English mile: from this summit, the parish has, upon the whole, a gentle rise to its farthest point, which must be of considerable elevation. The soil is generally clay, with a till bottom; but as the clay is, in some places, much stronger than in others; or the soil much deeper, there are very different degrees of fertility. In the middle, and higher part of the parish, the soil is mossy, or mixed with a black sand, peculiarly unfavourable to vegetation. The soil of the lower district produces very good grain, and is capable of great improvement.

*Agriculture.*—Oats are the chief object of attention. Many content themselves with raising two or three crops of this kind, and then lay their fields in grass. In the case of summer fallowing (a practice which has not, till of late, been introduced into this parish), the ploughing is performed with two horses: however, except in this case, the old Scotch plough, which cannot be drawn by less than three

horses, is almost universally employed. The farmers, who persist in the use of this instrument, seem disposed to think, that where the ridges are properly levelled, the two horse-plough is, in all respects, preferable. It is found most expedient to have the ridges gently rounded, and of a moderate breadth \*. The farmers in the lower part of the parish frequently adopt the following rotation of crops, and mode of culture: 1st year, oats, + lime on the sward; 2d, pease, or beans; 3d, oats; 4th, summer fallow and wheat; dung laid on the land in fallow; 5th, pease, or beans; 6th, oats or barley, laid down with grass-seeds. The ground then lies in grass for 5 or 6 years. The following rotation and mode of culture have been lately introduced by an English improver: 1st year, oats; 2d, fallow and wheat. The dung and lime are wholly applied to this crop: the lime is put on hot in powder; after which there are two ploughings, then the dung is put on; the dung is ploughed down, the lime up; 3d, pease, or beans; 4th, barley and grass-seeds.

*Rents.*—Good land rents from 20 s. to 30 s. the acre. The valued rent of the whole parish is 5400l. 10s. Scotch. The real rent is moderately calculated at 3300l. Sterling, exclusive

\* The scarcity in the year 1782, led Mr. Rankin of Glasgow, who was minister of the parish at that time, to calculate the annual produce of grain on an average, when it appeared that there was a produce of 11,520 bolls, of which it was supposed 2080 might be for exportation. As the farmers, in this parish, many of them against their interest, depend on the plough for payment of their rent, they must have suffered considerably on that occasion. The usual surplus above mentioned, and 1760 bolls flour and white pease imported, show a total deficiency in crop 1782, of 3840 bolls. The white pease, from England, gave great relief to the poor, as they were sold at 1 s. a peck, which is the average price of oat-meal.

+ The lime is brought from a spot in the parish of Carluke 7 or 8 miles distant.

clusive of the rent paid for coal and iron-stone, which is only £43 l. The rate of feus the rood is, in general, 10 s. a-year.

*Fences and Orchards.*—Thorn-hedges are generally preferred, but as the nature of the soil exposes them to the danger of becoming fogged, it has been found necessary to have the mound, in which the thorns are inserted, highly raised and enriched with dung. The strongest clay is preferred for orchard ground. On an average, the annual value of the fruit raised on an acre of land, is supposed to amount to 10 l. Sterling. When we reckon, along with this sum, the value of the undergrowth, which is little short of what the land would yield, if cultivated in the ordinary way, still more, when we consider that fruit-trees thrive best on those inaccessible spots which could not be employed advantageously in raising any other produce, we shall be sensible of the great profit to be derived from this way of employing land, where the soil and climate are favourable. A profitable orchard has a large proportion of pear-trees.

*Minerals, &c.*—There is abundance of excellent coal, capable of being wrought with great ease: It is, therefore, extremely probable, that the proposed canal between Edinburgh and Glasgow, will have its course through this parish. The price of 8 cwt. of coal, is 1 s. 6d. The colliers have, in general, half the coal put out, as wages. Many of the colliers employed here, betook themselves to their disagreeable labour at an advanced period of life; but they abundantly compensate for their want of regular training, by their sobriety and diligence. In this, as well as in all the neighbouring parishes, there are great quantities of iron-stone. There is likewise abundance of free-stone. As the materials for making roads are very bad, it requires constant attention, and great expense to keep the roads in proper repair.

*Population.*—Since the return was made to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755, the population of this parish has greatly increased, as will appear from the following population table of the parish of Cambusnethan.

### POPULATION TABLE, &c.

Number of souls in 1751,	-	1562	Total Increase.
Ditto in 1755,	-	1419	
Increase in 26 years,	-	<u>143</u>	143
Population in 1791,	-	1684	
Increase in 10 years,	-	122	<u>122</u>
Total increase in 36 years,	-	-	265
Number of inhabitants in villages, 409			Members of the Established
— married persons, 536			Church, - - - 1078
— unmarried above 20 years of age, - 471			Dissenters, chiefly Burgh-Soceders, - - - 614
— between 10 and 20, 248			
— under 10, 459			
— males, - 772 } 1684			
— females, - 912 }			
Baptisms registered for 10 years.			* Burials registered for 10 years, exclusive of children and poor people.
1751 - - - 26			12
1752 - - - 29			12
1753 - - - 30			18
1754 - - - 38			22
1755 - - - 37			30
1756 - - - 33			16
1757 - - - 28			22
1758 - - - 34			33
1759 - - - 34			19
1760 - - - 28			30
Total, 311			<u>214</u>
Annual average, 31 1-10th			21 4-10ths
			Villages.

- Epidemical diseases, except those peculiar to children, are scarcely known here. There are several persons in the parish, whose age exceeds 90 years. Upon the whole, the climate is extremely favourable to health.

*Villages.*—The late increase of inhabitants is partly owing to the proximity of the Omon iron-works, in the parish of Shotts, but chiefly to the convenient situation of a village on the lands of Wishaw and Coltness. This village had no existence 20 years ago. In consequence of its erection, there are few cottages attached to particular farms, and another village, less conveniently situated, which was formerly of considerable extent, is fast going into decay. Of the tradesmen, who inhabit the village, and indeed the parish at large, there are few employed by manufacturing companies; and therefore it seems unnecessary to give a particular list of different professions.

*Roads.*—The great road from Glasgow to Lanark, runs through the parish. It will be little frequented, when the new road on the S. side of the Clyde is finished. The statute-labour has been chiefly devoted to the lower part of the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—It appears that this parish was formerly attached to the abbacy of Kelso. When the Reformation took place, the teinds were granted to the family of Roxburgh. The Duke of Hamilton is now titular. Mr. Lockhart of Castlehill, proprietor of the estate of Cambusnethan, is patron. The value of the living, exclusive of manse and glebe, amounts to nearly 130 l. Sterling. The stipend is chiefly paid in oat-meal.

*School and Poor.*—The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks. He has a free house, but no garden. The average number of scholars is about 60. The school-wages a-quarter, are, for reading english, 1 s. 6 d., reading and writing, 1 s. 9 d., arithmetic and latin, 2 s. 6 d. each.—In order to avoid the imposition

sition of a legal stent for maintaining the poor, the non-residing heritors, and the members of the Burgher congregation voluntarily contribute 22l. 5s. Sterling, annually, which with the interest of 83l. stock, the weekly collections, and the mortcloth money, usually makes up the sum of 66l. Sterling. This sum is found sufficient, for the maintenance of the poor when the prices of provisions are moderate: On extraordinary occasions, the charity of individuals, of every rank, is liberal. The kirk-session takes the entire management, of the poor's money, but they submit an exact statement of their expenditure, every half year, to the heritors: Upon these occasions, the poor's-roll is made up, and when it is necessary, the members of the Burgher session, report the state of the paupers attached to their congregation.

*Libraries.*—The inhabitants of this parish, have given a good specimen of their character and taste, in the institution of two libraries, supported by an annual subscription, and containing a judicious selection of books, entertaining, historical, moral, and religious.

For the prices of labour and provisions, with other articles of the same kind; reference is made to the statistical account, of contiguous parishes.

## NUMBER XXXIX.

## PARISH OF ABERDOUR.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF DEER.)

*By the Rev. Mr. ANDREW YOUNGSON.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE parish takes its name from a rivulet, or burn, which discharges itself into the sea, about 200 paces below the church. The form of the parish is irregular, its extent from E. to W. along the sea-coast, or Murray Frith, is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles, the church being nearly in the middle, and close to the sea; from the N. E. to the S. W., it extends about 9 miles habitable, besides a large extent of moss and moor ground. Its breadth from the church on the N. coast southward, is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles; but between the S. E. corner of the parish, and the rest of the parish of Aberdour, part of the parish of Tyrie, for about a mile of breadth, intervenes, and cuts off 3 farm towns, extending, where broadest, about a mile and a half, and

and much about the same length ; and where there are 93 inhabitants. This detached part of the parish is believed to have been formerly grazing places for the tenants on the sea-coast of the lands of Aberdour, of which barony it is still a part. The face of the country is very uneven, and the soil of very different qualities : the soil of the corn-fields on the sea-coast is partly clay, or red loam, but mostly of a light black, or gravelly quality ; and in the moors, the soil is light black, cold and watery. In the W. side of the parish are 3 deep hollows, with a rivulet in each, called the den of Aberdour, the den of Auchmedden, and the den of Troup. Each of these dens, as they advance from the sea-coast, branch out on each side into many other lesser ones, till they end at last in mosses and moors, about 2 or 3 miles from the sea. On each side of these dens (as they are called), for about a mile, or little more, from the sea, the ground is mostly arable, and, in general, of a kindly soil, producing pretty good crops of grain, when properly managed ; but the high ground, or ridge between them, is a wretchedly poor heath, incapable of any improvement for the most part, but at an expense far beyond what it could ever repay, unless situated in the neighbourhood of a great town. The burn in the westmost of these dens is the boundary between the parishes of Aberdour and Gamery. The E. side of the parish is more level, and consists of corn-fields, some of a pretty good soil, others very poor, interspersed with heath, and near the sea, with large tracks of ground, producing a coarse kind of grass, called by the country people reesk. In the S. part of the parish is the den of Glasby, in which runs also a burn, the head of the N. branch of the river Ugie, into which it discharges itself at Rora, in the parish of Longside, passing by the church of Strichen in its way. On the N. side of this den, and facing the S., are pretty large corn-fields, but the greater part of this side of the parish con-

scattered over moor, and here and there corn-fields, gained from these, with farm-towns at a considerable distance from one another ; on the W. border of the parish, and along its whole breadth, are continued mottes and moors,

*Sea-Coast, Caves, Castle, Cairns, &c.*—The sea-coast in this district consists of high rocks ; those to the W. of the church remarkably so, and in the whole length of the parish there are only 3 openings, where boats can land, one near the borders of Pitligo, one immediately below the church, and one at the N. W. corner of the parish, where the burns of Troup and Auchmedden discharge themselves into the sea, and where, about 50 years ago, was a small neat and convenient harbour, where ships from the neighbouring sea-ports used to winter, as well as to land, but which being neglected, is now totally destroyed, not a vestige of the piers remaining, but the stones of which they were built, and which have so entirely filled up the former basin, that it is with difficulty that the fishing boats, 3 in number, with 6 hands each, can land. Here is a fishing-town, consisting of 110 inhabitants, in general very sober, industrious, well behaved people. Along the sea-coast are many caves, entering from the sea. The most remarkable one is at the N. E. corner of the parish, near the borders of Pitligo parish, called Cows-haven, which runs up through the country, no body knows how far, though several people have proceeded as far as the air, which is foul (the entrance of the cave being mostly choked with the sand and pebbles thrown up by the sea), would allow them to do with safety \*.

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About

\* There are two others in the bay of Aberdour, near the church, through which the tide flows. The eastmost of those is quite dry at low water, covered with a fine sand, and affords a pleasant retreat in a warm summer's day, as well as an agreeable passage to the rocks on the other side : It is 90 feet long,

22 feet

About half a mile English E. from the church, is the site and remains of the ancient castle of Dundargue, upon a rock of red free-stone, 64 feet high from the beach immediately below, 261 feet in length, 38 feet mean breadth, making an area of nearly 29 falls, surrounded by the sea, when the tide flows, except a narrow neck of rock and earth, which joins the castle rock to the land, the breadth 12 feet, where it joins the land, but decreases gradually, till it reach the entry of the castle, where it is only about 4 feet wide. Here the rock has been cut, but in place of the draw-bridge, which (it is probable) has formerly given access to the castle, the narrow rock is made up with earth, in order to enable the tenants' cattle to get at the fine grass which grows on the rock \*. There is a

large

12 feet broad, 11 feet high, and the arch most neatly jointed. The other cave is parallel to this, and distant from it only 42 feet, is never quite dry at low water, but can be passed through with dry foot, upon a number of large stones which lie in it: it is 100 feet long, 24 feet broad, 13 feet high, and the rock over these is 70 feet high, and is joined to the main land by a neck of earth, of about 2 feet wide; a part of the rock runs off on the E. side, almost at right angles from the caves, and forms an arch 46 feet broad, and 21 feet high, through which the sea also flows at high water.

\* The only part of the castle now standing, is the entry. The whole breadth of the front is only 12 feet, the door is 4 feet 2 inches wide, 6 feet high, and is arched; the height of the walls 12 feet 7 inches; the length of the side-walls still standing, is 10 feet 6 inches; there are no other remains of the castle walls, except the inside of the foundation, the outside having fallen down, owing to the mouldering away of the rock on which it was built. There is a fine level green, where the outworks have been, which has been secured on the land side, by a wall (the foundation of which still remains) of the same kind of stone with the castle rock, cemented with lime, after the manner of what is commonly called Roman-lime, as the remains of the castle have also been, and which renders the walls so firm, that you may more easily break the stone, than separate it from the lime; on the outside of this wall or rampart, is a dry ditch 296 feet long, and still 30 feet wide, and 6 feet deep: running parallel to this, are 2 other ditches, of the same length with it; the first of these is 12 feet wide, and 10 feet deep, the mound, or the distance between it and the dry ditch, or moat last mentioned,

is

Large cairn of stones at Coburty, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. from the church ; from this cairn a considerable part of the stones being taken away to build enclosures, and the earth below where they lay being digged up for making dunghills, it was found to be mixed with a number of human bones \*.

*Diseases.*—There are no diseases peculiar to this district, the bodily complaint that most prevails among all ranks, young and old, is rheumatism.

*Proprietors, Church, School-house, &c.*—There are only two  
4 D 2 heritors

is 40 feet. The breadth of the last, and outer parallel, is irregular, from 5 to 8 feet, and its depth 4 feet ; the distance between it and the former parallel is 12 feet. Though this fortress could now be of little service, even if remaining in its former strength, being commanded by the neighbouring ground; yet before the use of great guns, it must have been a very strong place, and could have received supplies of men and provisions by sea, as at full tide a small vessel could have lain to at the very foot of the castle rock ; the garrison, however, might have been starved for want of water, by cutting the pipes, which conveyed the water to the castle, from a spring about 100 paces distant, some remains of which pipes have been found of late years by the tenants, in digging the ground between the castle and spring. And tradition says, that it was this circumstance which obliged Henry de Beaumont, the English Earl of Buchan, to capitulate, when besieged therein by Andrew Murray, regent of Scotland, during the captivity of King David Bruce, in the year 1336.

\* The tradition is, that the Danes having landed on the Buchan coast, and pillaging the country in their way to Murray, then in possession of their countrymen, were come up with, at the place where now stand the cairns of Memsie in the parish of Rathie, by the Scotch army, and defeated, three of their leaders being slain, over whose buried bodies the 3 cairns there were raised, on the very spot where each of them fell ; that the Danes retreated, and were again overtaken and defeated at Coburty, the cairn being raised over the graves of their slain ; and that the remains of this Danish army were finally defeated and cut to pieces, on a heath about a quarter of a mile W. from the church of Gamery, which still retains the name of the Bloody Pots ; in memory of which victory, the skulls of 3 of their slain leaders were built into the inside of the church wall, where two of them still remain, the other being consumed through length of time.

heritors in the parish, the Earl of Aberdeen, who has that part of the parish W. from the church, and Mr. Gordon of Aberdour, that on the E. of it, and who resides on his estate at Aberdour house. The fabrick of the church is very old, being built before the Reformation, but in what age is not known. About 30 years ago, the aisle was rebuilt, and some years after, the steeple was rebuilt; but the rest of the fabrick is in a bad state of repair, and the school-house is quite rainous \*.

*Language, Disposition of the People, &c.*—Though the language spoken in this district is a dialect of the English, known by the name of broad Buchan, yet the ancient names of places seem to be derived from the Gaelic, such as Achlin, Achnagan, Auchmadden, Bracklamore, Achintum, &c. The people, in general, are sober and industrious; and, till of late years, were so peaceable, and so little inclined to litigation, that for 12 or 13 years after the year 1766, there was only one single instance of a law-suit going from this parish to the courts at Aberdeen, and that arose from a difference between two tenants, about the boundaries of their respective farms; every other difference subsisting between parishioners being settled

\* Besides the parish school, there is another school in the W. corner of the parish near the fishing-town, the teacher in which instructs young children in reading english, in writing and arithmetic, and is commonly a tradesman, and receives from the church session, besides the ordinary fees paid by the scholars, a yearly salary of £ 1 s. 8 d. Sterling, out of the interest of money mortified for that purpose by one of the lairds of Auchmedden, and his lady's sister, Lady Jean Hay, a daughter of the Earl of Kinnoul, of which mortification the church session are made trustees. This school has been of great service to that corner. There is also a woman lives within a quarter of a mile of the church, who has taught young children to read english, and knit stockings, upwards of 40 years with great success; and what is very extraordinary, has still a few scholars, who make very good progress under her instruction, though she is upwards of 90 years of age. Her name is Jean Leily; she has been a very useful member of society.

led by arbitration. But of late years, from the frequent sequestrations or prosecutions for debts, the parishioners are better acquainted with lawyers, and consequently are more frequently engaged in law-suits.

*Manufactures.*—The women are employed, partly for making coarse serges for home consumption, but principally in spinning linen yarn for the merchants, and by means of these, and breeding black cattle, the subtenants and smaller farmers make a shift to pay their rents to their landlords. No other kind of manufacture is carried on in this parish. What would be most profitable for us would be fishing; but the restraints laid upon that business, by the salt-laws, discourage private persons from engaging in it; frauds, no doubt, ought to be prevented, but certainly some remedy might be found for several of the many hardships brought upon those concerned in the fishing business by these laws, without prejudice to the revenue.

*Productions.*—As to vegetables and plants, there are none but what are common in the country, except in the den of Auchmedden, where there are some rare herbs. And for trees, except a few fruit-trees in the garden of Aberdour, and in the minister's garden, there is not one that deserves the name of a tree, though, in former times, it is evident that there has been plenty of growing timber. The principal productions of this parish are barley, bear, beans, pease, oats, turnips, potatoes, greens, and cabbages. The staple commodity along the coast, is barley, bear, and beans; and, in the moors, oats. In the year 1766, there were scarcely 10 acres of sown grass within the parish, and not one ounce of hay made; now every subtenant or cottager who has a croft of land (and there are only 3 tradesmen in the parish who have no croft),

has less or more of sown grass. The quantity of grain produced cannot be ascertained, as few of the farmers measure their corns, or weigh their meal, except what part of these they sell.

*Mode of Cultivation, &c.*—Since the introduction of turnip crops, the farmers, in general, take a rotation of crops in their infields. After the turnip crop, they sow the field with beet, clover, and rye-grass seeds: when the grass is broken up the third or fourth year, the ground is sown with oats, next year with beet or barley, the third with pease or turnip, and the fourth with beet and grass-seeds: But this only during the former years of their short leaves. The out-fields, when unimproved, are worn out with crops after lime, are employed as folding for their cattle, or as faughs (as they are called), a partial kind of fallow, and according to the old absurd practice, carry successively 3 or 4 crops of oats. The old Scotch plough, and a mixture of Scotch and English ploughs, are used in this district. Besides the dung of their cattle and peat ashes, which are every where used as a manure, the farmers on the sea-coast make use of sea-ware; and they, as well as the other farmers throughout the parish, use lime and likewise broken shells mixed with sea-sand, which last they draw from the neighbouring parish of Pittigo; and which produces the same effect as lime. This mixture of shell and sand was discovered only a few years ago, by Mr. Williamson, a gentleman employed by the Society at Edinburgh, for making new discoveries of mines, &c. and who recommended the use of it to the late Mr. Garden of Troup, on whose estate it was discovered, who first used it himself, and encouraged his tenants to follow his example, which is now become the general practice. The lime is partly brought from the parish of Rathen, distant of 6 or 7 miles,

partly

ctly the product of limestone brought  
aries in the Boyn, and partly from li  
thin the flood-mark of the sea, in the l  
low-water; but this last begins to be sca  
t at. There are, besides, two other quar  
i stone, the lime of which, though of a s  
ered very well when laid upon the groun  
ger quantity; but both these quarries a  
over-run, and have not been worked for

*Improvements.*—Notwithstanding what is  
w solid, substantial, and permanent improv  
ade in this parish for the last 30 years,  
rms, where the tenants have longer leases  
iven here; the one of these had a lease of  
erty, to himself and his heirs, for the s  
nd after the expiration of these, a lifeten  
ssor; the tenant of this farm and his son  
eal, and most substantially, by draining, i  
nd dunging their farm, by enclosing a c  
t with good stone fences, for which purpos  
plied with stones from the cairn formerly r  
building a set of elegant office-houses, for  
ences, the heirs of the present tenant are  
nated value at the expiration of his lease.  
has also very much improved his farm, but  
losures, having nothing allowed him by  
that purpose, he has a different tack for him  
for his son, upon a rise of rent agreed up  
have not imitated their example, is not ov  
rance of the advantage, nor of the meth  
their farms; nor do they want the means  
cessary for that effect; but to various o

have hitherto hindered, and still must impede the improvement of our country. The principal of which, is short leases, which (except in the instances mentioned above) never exceed 19 years, often not so many. When the farmer enters upon the possession of his farm, he generally proceeds with great spirit in improving it according to his ability, and sometimes even beyond it, for the first 10 or 12 years of his lease; but being sensible that this will only tempt others to envy and supplant him, and the more so, as there are so few instances of farms to be had, but in an exhausted state; he therefore not only stops short in his improvements, but continues to scourge the ground to the expiration of his lease, as the proprietor is not inclined to renew his lease with him, till it is upon the point of expiring. And thus, after all he has done upon it, his farm is left by him in as bad, if not a worse condition, than when he entered to it. Another hindrance to improvement, is the time necessarily taken up in cutting and bringing home peats for the tenants themselves, and leet peats (as they are called) for their landlords; this takes up most of the summer, the most proper season for carrying on their improvements. Add to this, their straitened circumstances, the rents of their farms being doubled, and in several instances more, in the last 30 years, and upon the expiration or fall of a lease, fines or grassums being still paid, and that to a pretty high extent, though the ground still continues in its pristine, or in a worse, state: and the only advantage, the present tenant has over his then predecessors, is a little higher price for his grain, and the advanced price of cattle: and to balance this, the expense of managing his farm is in that period of time almost tripled. It is hoped, however, that the proprietors of land will see their mistake, and grant their tenants longer leases; for it is the settled opinion of the most intelligent people in this country, that if tenants

it leases of their farms to themselves a year, or 2, or 3, or 4 & 9 years; they could not only resent rent, which distresses them, but could at the same time improve their farms more valuable to the proprietor and his tenants. As to the obstacle of improvement, one necessarily taken up in providing another fuel, it is hoped, that the laudable anxiety of the Legislature in abolishing the duty on coal and coalways, will be productive of the happiness of the country. Were all such obstacles to the improvement of agriculture and other bars to industry, which impolitic laws have hitherto placed in the way, removed, our country bids fair for improvement, with a rapidity hitherto unknown.

*Millstone Quarries.*—There are two millstone quarries in the parish, one belonging to the Earl of Lauderdale, in the face of a very high cliff looking the sea, and whose foot is washed by the tide. The workmen, from a tremor in the rock, descend by a kind of stair cut out of the rock, and fall into a deep hole, where they stand upon a shelf, and descend by ladders reaching from one shelf to another. When the millstones are finished, they are hoisted over the remaining precipice, and fall into the sea, and are brought ashore by the tide when it flows. From this they are conveyed by sea, and landed at the mouth of the river Almond, near the west boundary of the parish. The other quarry is also close by the sea, upon the lands of Auchmedden, belonging to Mr. Gordon of Aberdour, but is not so large. A red flint

**STATISTICAL TABLE of the Parish of ABERDOUR for the  
Year 1792.**

Length of the parish, Eng. miles,	6½	Houses inhabited by families
Breadth, - - - - -	6	of 4 persons, - - - 53 21
Population, according to Dr. Webster, in 1755, - - -	1397	— by families of 5 persons, 44 22
Population in 1769, - - -	3329	— 6 persons, 22 13
In 1792, - - - - -	1306	— 7 persons, 17 11
Males under 10 years of age, - - -	140	— 8 persons, 7 5
— from 10 to 20, - - -	132	— 9 persons, 6 5
— from 20 to 30, - - -	79	— 10 persons, 4 4
— from 30 to 40, - - -	86	— 11 persons, 2 2
— from 40 to 50, - - -	46	— 12 persons, 1 1
— from 50 to 60, - - -	49	— 13 persons, 1 1
— from 60 to 70, - - -	51	— 14 persons, 1 1
— from 70 to 80, - - -	23	— 15 persons, 1 1
— from 80 to 90, - - -	3	— 16 persons, 1 1
	— 609	
Females under 10 years, - - -	134	Sum total of families and persons, - - - 340 1326
— from 10 to 20, - - -	101	Seceders, 3 families, - - - 19
— from 20 to 30, - - -	135	— individuals, - - - 2 2
— from 30 to 40, - - -	92	
— from 40 to 50, - - -	66	Episcopalians, 1 family, - - - 4
— from 50 to 60, - - -	79	— individuals, - - - 3 7
— from 60 to 70, - - -	65	
— from 70 to 80, - - -	20	Papists, - - - - - 1
— from 80 to 90, - - -	3	Members of the Established Church, - - - - - 1277
— from 90 to 100, - - -	4	Proprietor residing, - - - - - 1
	— 697	— non-residing, - - - - - 1
Married persons, - - -	486	Clergyman, - - - - - 1
Widowers, - - - - -	9	Schoolmasters, - - - - - 2
Widows, - - - - -	46	Surgeon, - - - - - 1
Unmarried men above 50, - - -	3	Farms above 50 l. a-year, - - - 2
— women above 45, - - -	22	Ditto under 50 l. - - - - - 53
Houses inhabited, - - -	340	Subtenants having ploughs, - - - 18
— by single persons, - - -	43 43	
— by families of 2 persons, 62 124		
— by families of 3 persons, 76 228		
		Shopkeepers, - - - - - 4
		Innkeepers, - - - - - 4
		— 8
		Weavers,

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Wages of boys, ditto, from 1 <i>l.</i> to 4 <i>l.</i>	Rent of the parish, including
— of female servants, 2 <i>l.</i> to 3 <i>l.</i>	4 <i>l.</i> for rent of a millstone quarry, and 8 <i>l.</i> for rent of kelp-shores, about - - 1600 <i>l.</i>
— of day-labourers, with meat and drink, a-day, - 6 <i>d.</i>	Minister's stipend, money, L. 4 <i>2</i> 17 0
— ditto without meat, - - 1 <i>s.</i>	Meat, 20 <i>lb.</i> bolls, at 10 <i>s.</i> the boll, - - - - 10 5 0
— tailors, with entertain- ment, - - - - 6 <i>d.</i>	Money for communion ele- ments, - - - - 2 15 6
— masons, with ditto, - 1 <i>s.</i>	
— ditto, without meat, - 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	
— of wrights, with enter- tainment, - - - - 7 <i>d.</i>	L. 55 17 6
— plough-wrights, with do. 1 <i>s.</i>	Glebe, including graft, acres 7 <i>½</i> .
— reapers during harvest, men, - - - - 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	Schoolmaster's salary, meal, bolls 5 <i>lb.</i> , and money, - 2 10 0
— women from - - 15 <i>s.</i> to 1 <i>l.</i>	

### OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing TABLE.

THE number of the inhabitants, as stated in the table, is from actual enumeration: so is the number of tradesmen, and those of other occupations. Their ages are as near the truth, as could be obtained, and it is presumed, pretty accurate. The small decrease of the inhabitants of this parish since the year 1769, is not owing to the number of deaths exceeding the births, as appears from the table; but to a constant drain of young people, who leave the parish. Many of the young men, despairing of getting a comfortable, or indeed any kind of settlement here, remove to towns, either to learn or prosecute their respective trades; others of them to such places as give higher wages to farm-servants. And young women repair to towns, where they are employed as servants, and not only to the neighbouring towns of Aberdeen, Banff, &c. but even to Edinburgh and London. Besides, in this current year, a greater number than ordinary have died, several young people of putrid sore throats, but the greater part old people. The people here are very inattentive to the registering their children's births or baptisms; so that no authentick information can be got from the parish register; but the annual average of births, according to the register, and making allowance for such as may have been neglected to be registrated, may amount to the number stated in the table. No register of deaths or burials was kept here, till the late act of parliament laying a tax upon burials, &c. Since that time, the schoolmaster has kept one, but many people are averse to the measure of registering their friend's death; besides, several of the parishioners of Aberdour are buried elsewhere, and stran-

gers, on the other hand, bury here: But the annual average, as in the table, will be found to be very near the truth. The register of marriages has all along been accurately kept; and from it is the article of marriages in the table taken. The average of births from each marriage, is calculated from a hundred known instances in the neighbourhood of one another. It appears from the table, that the number of soldiers and sailors employed in his Majesty's service in the last war, amounts to upwards of the eight part of the whole males residing in the parish at this time, from 20 to 50 years of age; a very large proportion indeed, besides those employed in the merchant service, which farther accounts for the small decrease of inhabitants. The number of the horses, as in the table, is from actual enumeration. And so is that of the black cattle and sheep, as it stood in summer 1792, when their numbers are highest; with this difference, however, that being obliged, from the reluctance of the lower rank of people (through ignorance or prejudice) to inform as to the number of their black cattle and sheep, to employ others than the owners in the enumeration, their reports cannot be equally depended upon: but of these last, the number was but small, and deviates, at most, only a little from the truth. The sheep, in general, are of the north country breed, only about 20 of the English breed of the polled kind; but along the coast, are a good many of a mixed breed between the two. The number of sheep has much decreased since the introduction of winter keeping, the sheep walks being too confined to enable the owner to pay a shepherd for the whole year, and reap any profit besides from his small flock. All these several sorts of cattle, being, in general, but small, may be estimated at present, at the following average value, viz. horses from 5l. to 6l., black cattle from 2l. to 3l., and sheep at 6s. Sterling. This is the opinion of the most knowing people the writer of this article has conversed with upon the subject, but he does not sustain himself a competent judge in these matters. Generally speaking, and with few exceptions, there are as many carts as horses employed in the summer time in bringing home fuel; but as a good many young horses are reared, who are unfit for drawing in the cart, the carts, as in the table, are computed to be in proportion to the horses, in the ratio of 4 carts to 5 horses. The ploughs are drawn, some few in the moorland part of the parish, by 6 small horses, 2 or 3 ploughs by 8 oxen and 2 horses; and through the rest of the parish, a few are drawn by 2 horses, but the greater part by 4, or 2 horses and 2 oxen, and these last are most approved of.

In stating the funds belonging to, and disbursements made to the poor, it was not thought fair to go back so far as the years 1783 and 1784, when the wants of the poor required an extraordinary supply; and accordingly a considerable sum was actually distributed: But the average is taken from the year 1792, and 6 preceding years, when there has been no extraordinary demand; and the sum mentioned in the table, as given to the poor, several of whom have families, has, with

ble; the rest is barren ground, consisting of moorries and moors covered with heath and stones, chiefly granite.

*Face of the Country.*—The parish may be divided into three districts. The tract of country lying between the Cowie and Carron from the coast, about 3 miles to the W., has a rich and fertile appearance. Close to this district, stands the mansion-house of Mr. Barclay of Urie, on a rising ground near the river Cowie, the sloping banks of which are planted with trees towering one above another. This plantation, which extends an English mile to the W., and as far to the E. of the house, on both sides of the river, presents a most delightful appearance, and the vast extent of highly cultivated ground divided into large fields, and enclosed with thorn hedges, greatly heighten the beauty of the prospect. The tract of ground in this district, between the church and the coast, about 20 years ago, was chiefly moor covered with short heath, furze, and broom; now it is almost all enclosed, and in a state of high cultivation. What part is not so, is planted with Scotch firs, larix, ash, &c. which are in a very thriving state, and will add considerable beauty to the appearance of the country in a few years. At regular distances, neat commodious dwelling-houses of stone and lime, and covered with slates, are built by the proprietor, Mr. Barclay, for his tenants. This circumstance is mentioned to show the rapid progress of improvement in this place. About two miles S. W. from Urie, is the mansion-house of Fetteresso, formerly the residence of the ancient and noble family of Marischal, and now of Mr. Duff, son of the late Admiral Duff, who purchased the estate from the York-building Company in 1782. The site of the house is snug and warm, and surrounded with fine old trees, which, together with the adjoining improved fields, exhibit a beautiful appearance.

peanice. The second district stretches along the coast, and comprehends the estates of Cowie, Muchals, and Elsick. Here the face of the country has but a bare appearance, as there are no trees, excepting a few at the mansion-houses of Muchals and Elsick. There are, however, rich corn fields enclosed with stone or earthen fences on both sides of the post-road that runs through this part of the parish, which gives the country a fertile appearance. The lands of Mountquich, lying 5 miles W. from the coast, form the third district. The face of the country here, in general, is not favourable. In one particular spot, however, great improvements have been made of late, which, amidst the gloomy waste which every where surrounds it, presents an agreeable prospect. Mr. Silver, a native of this district, made a purchase of the estate of Netherby, on his return from the West Indies, where he built a genteel modern dwelling-house, with a complete set of offices, which, since his death, have been greatly improved by his son. He likewise planted several pieces of moorish ground with Scotch firs, ash, and oak, &c: which are in a very thriving state; and highly improved and cultivated about 100 Scotch acres, which he enclosed in small fields, with stone fences and hedge rows of ash; by which means, and the very great improvements he made on the state of the roads, the inhabitants here are happily put on a footing with those on the coast.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air is in general dry and healthy, and the people little subject to contagious distempers. The most prevalent are rheumatisms and nervous fevers. It deserves to be remarked, that the people who reside near the moors and marshy places, enjoy as good health, and live to as great age, as those near the coast. Many of them live to 70, and some of them to 80 years of age, and upwards.

*Coast, Fish, Harbours, &c.*—The coast from Stonehaven to the N. boundary of the parish, extends nearly 7 English miles. It is bold and rocky. There is one bay, called the Bay of Stonehaven, which stretches from Downy to Garroch Point, that is, about two miles. In this bay, there is a salmon fishing, the property of Mr. Barclay; and a white fishing, the property of Mr. Innes of Cowie. Three boats are employed in this fishing, with six hands to each boat. The fish caught here, are ling, cod, turbot, skate, haddocks, &c. which are consumed by the people in the neighbourhood. There are likewise two creeks or small harbours, one at Muchals, another at Sketraw. At the former, there were two fishing-boats, which were lost in a storm about 30 years ago, and the crews perished, since which time they have not been replaced. At the latter, there are 7 boats of much the same size, and having the same number of hands with those at Cowie. The fish caught here are likewise consumed by the people in the adjacent country. Here, by the way, it deserves to be remarked, that a Mr. Mackie, lately from the West Indies, made a purchase of the lands of Sketraw, in 1788, where he has built a very good dwelling-house, and made very great improvements, having, in the space of 3 years, enclosed with stone fences, and highly cultivated, about 60 Scotch acres, part of which was formerly barren, covered with heath and furze. He continues to carry on his improvements with great spirit and industry.

*Population.*—The population of Fetteresso is not so great as it was formerly, though it is still somewhat higher than it was 40 years ago. By an exact survey taken in 1764, the number was 3500. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was only 3082. Increase in 9 years 418. The number of souls, in 1790, was 3370. Decrease in 26 years 130. Increase,

crease, upon the whole, in 35 years, from 1755 to 1790, is 288. The above mentioned decrease, is owing chiefly to two or more farms being turned into one; a practice not uncommon here. The births, at an average, are 70; the marriages 25; the deaths cannot be ascertained, no register of them having been kept. There is a Chapel of Ease, and an Episcopal meeting-house in the N. part of the parish. The number of Episcopilians is about 400: they are an obliging, peaceable, decent set of people, and live in good habits with those of the Establishment. There are no other sectaries in the parish.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—Formerly Earl Marischal was patron of the parish; but upon the forfeiture of the titles and estate of that family in 1715, the right of patronage devolved to the King. The church is old, inconvenient, and unfit to contain the congregation, when fully assembled together. It is 94 feet in length, within walls, and 19 in breadth. Opposite to the pulpit, there is an aisle, which is of service to the preacher, by enabling him to speak with greater ease. The aisle was built in 1720; but when the church was built, is not known, there being no date upon it. Neither walls nor roof are plastered; and as the floor is from 3 to 4 feet lower than the surface of the ground on the outside of the walls, pools of water stand in the area several days after a heavy rain. The burying-ground is much larger than any in this part of the country. There are about 250 tomb or grave stones in it, some of which are of an ancient date; and a few have very fine engravings upon them, done by a Mr. Cresswell, a farmer in the parish, who could not form a single letter with the pen. The manse was built in 1726, and has undergone few repairs, excepting new windows in 1784. The stipend is 71 l. 2 s. 6 d. Sterling, 2 chalders of meal, and 1 chalder of bear; the glebe, including the garden and

pasture ground, is 6*l* acres.—The schoolmaster's salary is 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Sterling, which, together with the emoluments of the office, make his living about 20*l.* Sterling a year. Twelve years ago, the heritors built an excellent school, and a house for the master, under one roof, which last they neatly finished to encourage him to keep boarders.—The number of poor who receive occasional supply is, at an average, 36. There are 5 or 6 besides, who receive weekly from 1*s.* to 2*s.* each. The money belonging to the poor, is 7*l.* Sterling, the interest of which, with the weekly collections, seat-rents, mort-cloth dues, &c. amounts to about 40*l.* Sterling yearly.

*Antiquities.*—The vestige of an old camp, on a hill called Rec-Dikes, or the King's Dikes, appears very distinct. It is an oblong square of 21 acres, has four outlets and redoubts before them, and many of the trenches are still pretty deep \*. In almost every part of the parish, remains of Druidical temples are to be met with †. On the coast about a mile and a half N. from Stonehaven, appear the remains of a castle, the residence of the Thanes of Cowie or Mearns ‡. On a

rising

\* It is supposed by some to have been a Roman encampment, and to be the very spot occupied by Agricola's troops before his engagement with Galgacus the Scotch king. On a moor 2 miles E. of the camp, there are a great many tumuli, or small cairns, and some very large ones, which are supposed to be sepulchral monuments raised on the field of battle to the memory of the dead. The moor is called the Kemp-stane Hill, on each side of which, there is a morass, which would cover the flanks of the army that first reached the ground; and it is not improbable the battle was fought between the morasses.

† Since the incumbent was settled, there was one that seemed to be pretty entire, the three circles formed by stones of different sizes being very distinct. But the farmer on whose possession it stood, demolished it a few years ago, by carrying off the stones for building.

‡ Buchanan calls the Thane of Cowie Macpendirus. Donald Basie the brother of Malcolm Canmore (he says) bribed Macpendirus \*, Comes Mernise, to assassinate

\* Buchan. Hist. Scos. Lib. vii,

## *Of Fetteresso.*

ing ground near to the Thame castle, ;  
on a place of worship; the gables and pa  
ll standing. Adjoining to this, there is  
closed with stone walls, where many of  
l. part of the parish, on account of its  
ury their dead.

*Rent and Proprietors.*—The valued ren  
534 l. 4 s. ad. Scotch, and the real ren  
Sterling. The number of heritors is 6, and  
of the former, and 4 of the latter, are resid  
ago, about one half of the rent of the  
grain, but now the grain is almost all conv  
is chiefly paid in money. Improved land  
11. 10s. Sterling the acre. Some pieces  
Stonhaven are let much higher. Unimpro  
to 15s. the acre \*.

*Agriculture.*—Before 1763, farming wa  
as a science, and for that reason was not car  
any regular plan. The spirit of inquiry inti  
tified in the S. parts of the country had not  
the mode of farming that had been in use  
still continued. Every farmer followed th  
father taught him, and was satisfied.

assassinate Duncan the bastard. Sir David Dalrym  
which he translates from the Gaelic, “ the servant of  
of the name of Fraser was raised to the rank of Ths  
Dalrymple in his Annals, to which the reader is re  
markable facts relating to this family. The ancient a  
and Salton, are descended from them, and perhaps me  
name in Scotland.

\* The daily wages for labourers in husbandry, are  
10 years since, they were not above 8 d. The usual w

country might have remained till now, had not Mr. Barclay, who is possessed of an enterprising spirit, and extensive knowledge in agriculture, which he acquired by reading the best publications on that subject, and by his own observations in the different tours which he made on foot in his younger years through Scotland, and a great part of England, introduced a new system. Before the above period, lime, as a means of improvement, was little known, and had never been used; clearing the land of stones, straightening and levelling, summer fallow and green crops, dividing and enclosing ground in separate fields, had never been attempted. All this was left to be done by Mr. Barclay, who embarked in the arduous undertaking with animation and fortitude; and notwithstanding the many obstacles that necessarily occurred to obstruct his progress, he persevered in the prosecution of his designs with ardour and resolution: But as he was so obliging as give the writer of this an account of his operations and improvements, he shall publish it in the terms he received it.

“ Land improved by Mr. Barclay of Ury, in the space of 25 years, about 800 acres; 500 of which were arable, and

300

7 L a-year; and that of a female-servant 3 L. Twenty years ago, their wages were little more than a half of what they are now. When the incumbent was settled, the wages of the first male-servant he had was 2 L. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling a-year, and of his first female-servant 1 L. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling. Every article of living is increased in proportion. Beef cost then 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  d., or at most 2 d. the pound. Mutton was not sold by weight; on an average it was 9 d. the quarter. Veal and lamb were seldom brought to market; few people thinking it worth while to fatten them. Now beef costs 3 d. the pound in autumn and winter, and 4 d. in spring and summer. Veal, mutton, and lamb, are from 3 d. to 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound. Butcher meat is to be had in Stonehaven, the nearest market town, every lawful day of the week, which is very convenient for the inhabitants, and the people in the neighbourhood. Poultry and eggs are almost double the price they were some years since.

soo barren, covered with short heath, furze, and broom. The land was improved in this manner, by clearing it of stones, many of which were split by gunpowder, draining, levelling, and enclosing, chiefly with thorn hedges.

*"Mode of Cropping.—First year, fallowed and improved by lime; 50 bolls of Scotch shells, water measure, to each acre; 4 firlots to each boll, and 34 Scotch pints to each firlot. The lime ploughed into the land before winter, and sometimes the land was ploughed a second time before it. The first crop oats or barley. Second year, dunged, and sown with turnips, in broad cast, and hoed while any weeds appeared. The turnips sometimes fed off by sheep, but most commonly one half drawn, and the other half fed off in alternate ridges, the whole ground being included in the fold. Third year, barley and grafs-seeds. If intended to be broken up for wheat, 12 pound of broad clover, and 2 pecks of rye-grass to each acre. If intended to remain for pasture, a greater quantity of rye-grafs, with the addition of 6 pound of white, and 6 pound of yellow clover, and 4 pound of rib grafs to each acre. That part of the land proposed for grain, was folded the first or second year of the grafs, and ploughed up for wheat or oats, which were succeeded by turnips; and the above course continued."*

"Mr. Barclay has planted about 800 acres with Scotch firs, great part of which are since filled up with oak, ash, beech, and larix. His tenants \* in the parish have also improved nearly the same quantity of land which he himself has done, and follow, in general, almost the same mode of cropping. Twenty-two wheel-ploughs are at thi time at work upon and those farms. The farm houses and offices are built of stone  
lime,

\* See Statistical Account of Kinneff, vol. VI.

lime, and roofed with slates or tiles. He has laid down by a regular plan, above 12 acres of ground, with streets 48 feet wide, and a square of 3 acres in the middle, part of which is feued and built: All the houses are roofed with slates or tiles. This village adjoins to the town of Stonehaven, where there is a safe and convenient harbour."

To the above account, it may be added, that Mr. Barclay's extensive improvements are chiefly round the mansion-house; that the fields are all smooth and level like a bowling-green; and that they are let to a butcher for grazing, who has from 50 to 60 black cattle; and between 800 and 1000 sheep feeding in them; by which means the value of the ground must be increased in a few years.

It is to be regretted, that the farmers on the lands of the other proprietors, made no attempts towards improving their farms for a long while after Mr. Barclay's tenants commenced their operations, because they had no encouragement given them by their landlords. At length, however, some of the most judicious, who were in good circumstances, began to dress and lime a few acres by way of trial, for they wished to proceed with slow and cautious steps. Finding by the crops which they produced, that their labour and expense were fully repaid; they made a second and a third trial. All which, answering beyond expectation; they annually dressed and improved pretty large fields, laying down the first grain crop with grass-seeds, till their whole farm was cultivated. Animated by their example, more than by Mr. Barclay's, because more on a level with their capacity and circumstances, others were induced to improve their ground. Thus, by degrees, the spirit of improvement is become universal here, insomuch that people who possess but a few acres, sow some turnips, plant some potatoes, and lay down a ridge or

two with graft-seeds. Upon the whole, by the agricultural improvements in this parish, the state of it is rendered essentially better than it was 20 years ago; and by the advantages which Mr. Barclay's operations and example have produced, not in this parish only, but through the greater part of this county, he has justly merited the thanks and esteem of all around him.

## NUMBER XLI.

## PARISH OF WAMPHRAY.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF LOCH-MABEN.)

*By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

WAMPHRAY is supposed by some who understand the Gaelic, to signify "the deep vale in the forest." Others equally well acquainted with that language, can give no account of its etymology. If not from the Celtic, it is perhaps derived from the Saxon language. The length of the parish from N. to S., is about 5 miles, and its breadth 3. Its N. E. extremity is mountainous; that part of it which lies along the Annan, is fertile and populous. A large brook, called Wamphray Water, divides it diagonally from N. E. to S. W. The situation of the church and manse on the winding

winding banks of this rivulet, in a deep and woody recess, is singularly romantick.

*Climate, &c.*—More rain falls in this country, than in many other parts of Scotland. The best built walls, where exposed to the S., become damp within. The air therefore must be moist, but the longevity of the people, and the infrequency of epidemical distempers, sufficiently prove that it is a healthy district. The water is very pure. The soil, when it is cultivated, is in some places clayey, in others gravelly. There is marl of various kinds; but, on account of the difficulty of digging it out, and some other circumstances, it has hitherto been little used. Attempts have been made, but without success, to find coal and lead.

*Population.*—The number of the people in 1755, according to Dr. Webster's report, was 458. The population of the parish seems to have been anciently greater than at present. One farmer now possesses what was occupied 60 years ago by 10 or 12 tenants. The population, however, has increased of late, and now amounts to 487: males 235; females 252. Inhabited houses 90. Number to each inhabited house almost 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Of births, deaths, and marriages, there has been no register kept for many years past. There is now living, one person aged 96, one 92, one 89, three or four 86 and upwards. A woman who died about 12 years ago, was generally believed, in the neighbourhood, to be 113 years old. There are 3 masons, 2 joiners, 4 tailors, 9 weavers, 2 smiths, 2 shoemakers, 1 surgeon.

*Heritors, Stipend, &c.*—The number of heritors is 5. Two of them reside in the parish. The Earl of Hopetoun is principal heritor and patron. The stipend is about 75 l., includ-

ing one chalder of oat-meal, valued at 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The glebe is worth 5*l.* or 6*l.* a-year. The present incumbent is the eighth minister since the Revolution. It is somewhat singular, that not one of these died in possession of this living, and the present minister is on the point of resigning it.

*Sectaries.*—There is a meeting-house belonging to the sect of Relief, which was built about 16 years ago, and which, till it became vacant last year, was attended by many, chiefly of the lower class of people, from this and some of the neighbouring parishes. The people of this parish will readily return to the church, if a minister whom they respect is settled among them; and that event would probably put an end to the Relief Establishment here. Of Seceders of different denominations, exclusive of those who used to attend the Relief meetings, there are about 36.

*Poor, School.*—The number of poor who, some years ago, were relieved by collections in the church, was about 20. The parochial school is commonly attended by 30 or 40 children, who are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The land-rent is about 1570*l.* The number of sheep is about 6000 \*; black cattle 500; ploughs 40; acres in tillage about 480; in big and barley 40; potatoes 40; pease 8; turnip 4; sown grass annually cut 70. The remainder of the land annually ploughed, is sown with oats, some of which are of the red, and other early kinds. They begin to sow in the end of March, and to reap in the beginning of September. There have been about 90 acres planted with fir within the last 30 years. There is besides, a considerable

\* The sheep are of the common Scotch breed.

iderable quantity of natural wood, viz. oak, ash, birch, hazel, &c.

Great improvements have been made in agriculture within the last 10 years. These are in a great measure owing to the encouragement given by the Earl of Hopetoun. Most of his Lordship's lands were let last year upon leases, for the arable farms, of 21 years, for the sheep farms, of 14. None of the former tenants were removed. They are, in general, very active and intelligent, and by the use, not only of lime, but of green and drilled crops, keep the land in excellent condition. Little or no lime was used till of late: last year above 2000 bushels were laid on, all brought from a distance of at least 16 miles. Several farms are well enclosed, mostly with thorn hedges\*. There is one corn-mill in the parish: by the last leases, the tenants are relieved from the payment of multure†, and the miller is now paid for his work, about a thirtieth part of the meal.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The common wages of a manservant, are from 6*l.* to 8*l.* a-year; of a woman, from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* A considerable quantity of salmon is killed in the Annan, with an instrument resembling a trident, called a lieiter, in the use of which, some of the young men are very expert. They often fish in winter, and in the night by torch light, not scrupling to follow the salmon in the water in the time of frost and snow. These fish are sold at an average, at 2*½ d.* the pound.

The belief in witches and apparitions seems to have prevailed here to a wonderful degree, about a hundred years ago.

### Songs

\* The farms rent from 20*l.* to 150*l.* Scarcely any farm rents so high as 10*l.* the acre.

† A certain proportion of grain of the crop of each farm, due to the miller, sometimes amounting to a ninth part.

Songs are still sung descriptive of the barbarous deeds and bloody feuds of some former age, of which this parish was the scene. The road between Glasgow and Carlisle runs through the parish. It was made about 20 years ago. Along this road, a mail-coach passes and repasses every day.

*Antiquities.*—In the track of the above, there was a Roman road, by the side of which, a few large stones, each about 5 feet high, are still standing, nearly at the distance of a Scotch mile from one another, and, therefore, supposed by some to have been mile-stones. Beside one of these, Charles II. is said to have passed the night in going to England, a little before the battle of Worcester. There is a Druidical circle almost entire.

NUM.

## NUMBER XLII.

## PARISH OF ESKDALEMUIR.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM.)

*By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM BROWN.**Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.*

E SKDALEMUIR takes its name from its being situated at the head of the Esk, or Esek, which signifies "strife;" this river having been famous in former times for the battles fought on its banks between the Scots and English. The length of the parish from N. to S. is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles; and its extreme breadth from E. to W. about 8 miles. According to the nearest calculation, the number of acres will be about 45,250. It was originally a part of the parish of Westerkirk; but in 1703, was erected into a separate parish by the present name. The principal rivers are, the White and Black Eisks, which run to the southward, and meet at the foot of the parish, forming the well known river of Esk, which discharges

charges itself into the Solway Frith. The most remarkable hills are, the Pen of Eskdalemuir and Lochfell. The soil is, in general, very deep, but, owing to its high situation, not very fertile. Most part of it is moss, covered with a coarse kind of grass. Along the banks of the White Esk, however, the hills are, in general, green, and afford excellent pasture. From the height of situation, and the nature of the soil, the air is, in general, damp; but since the introduction of draining, it is greatly improved. Property in land has changed often in the memory of the present inhabitants. It commonly gives about 25 years purchase. Meadow and arable grounds rent at about 10 s. an acre.

*Agriculture.*—In former times the inhabitants were much fonder of agriculture than they are at present. At a moderate calculation, they ploughed twice as much as they do now. The reason of their leaving it off, was owing in part to the uncertainty of the climate, but chiefly to the great demand in late years for sheep and wool. At present, there are about 200 acres in constant tillage. But if the demand for sheep and wool increase as it has done for some years past, it is probable that still fewer will be in use; for they think that, in many places, it either hurts the sheep walks, or might be of more advantage in affording them a retreat in times of storm. Formerly they were wont to stock much with black cattle among their sheep; but experience has taught them their error. They render the grounds unhealthy for sheep, and introduce diseases. There are still some, however, who retain the old practice, from a desire to make sure of a part of their stock; wet years being found to prove less hurtful to them than to the sheep. They are ready, however, to acknowledge that they are far from being profitable; for, after the trouble of keeping and feeding for 6 or 8 months, they seldom gain more,

one year with another, than 20s. a-head. There are at present in the parish, about 445 black cattle. The number of horses will be about 75, besides the young ones that are as yet unfit for husbandry.

But the principal production of this parish is sheep, which are coming daily more into request. At the head of the parish, they are all of the short kind; but lower down they are, for the most part, of the Cheviot breed. Some attempts were made to introduce them on the higher grounds, but without success. The general opinion of the farmers is, that the grounds are too wet and stormy; that the sudden changes hurt them more than the short sheep; and that the death among the lambs is greater. The number of sheep at present is about 25,440. The farmers here are particularly attentive to the treatment of their stocks. They generally stock light, that they may preserve grass for the winter and spring. They have laid aside, in a great measure, the custom of milking, being of opinion that it weakens the ewes, and makes them less able to endure the winter. The wool of both kinds is of good quality; and meets with a ready market. It is generally smeared with tar and butter; but some of them are beginning to use the African grease\* instead of the latter. Mr. Gideon Curnell in Yetbyre, smeared, some years ago, the one side of a sheep with tar and butter, and the other with tar and African grease, and found them run equally well. The only difference was, that the wool smeared with the tar and grease was yellower than the other, but became equally white after being washed. The success of this experiment made him smear all his short sheep in 1791, with the grease instead of butter, and the consequence was, that he never had

\* The African grease is coming much into repute. It is 6 d. a-stone cheaper this year than butter; has about a choppin more of oil in the stone when melted; runs equally well on the sheep, and produces better wool.

so weighty a crop of wool as he had that year. On calculating, he found that he had  $\frac{1}{4}$  more than ever he had any year before, or than he had last year when he again smeared with the butter. The wool, he assures me, was also more open, and of better quality. This year, a number of the farmers have purchased grease instead of butter. The disease to which the sheep here are most subject, is the rot; which is owing, partly, as was said, to the mixture of black cattle, but chiefly to the wetness of the seasons and the softness of the grounds \*.

#### *Population,*

\* Since I have mentioned this as the principal calamity to which this parish is subject, perhaps it may not be improper, were I to add a short statement of bad years, which I had from persons of veracity and experience. In 1674, there were 13 drifty days in the end of February and beginning of March, O. S., which proved fatal to most of the sheep in this parish. The whole sheep on Black Esk were destroyed, except 40 dimonts on the farm of Westfide. In 1739, the summer and harvest were very wet. This was followed by severe frost and snow, which came on about New Year's day 1740, and lay without intermission till it was melted by the sun. On the 20th of May, the frost was so intense, that the people were unable to cast their peats. Before harvest 1741, oat-meal sold at 3s 3d. a-stone; but after harvest it fell to 2s. Years were rather better, though far from being good, till 1745, when another wet summer and harvest, succeeded by another storm of frost and snow (which began 25th January 1746, and lay for 6 weeks), destroyed almost the whole stocks of Eskdalemuir. All the farmers, excepting 6, were ruined by this shock. Sheep-hogs sold then from 4s. 6d. to 5s., long wool was 5s., and short wool from 2d. to 2s. The summer of 1747, was so wet, that no hay could be preserved; but not so lasting as to do much hurt to the sheep. Years were good till 1751, when another run of bad years commenced, which lasted till 1755. During this period, the farmers suffered the most dreadful calamities; their old sheep were destroyed by the inclement seasons, and their lambs killed by frost and snow. To this day, they are looked back upon with horror. From 1755 till 1762, years were good; in which year, the black cattle, which were then far more numerous than they are now, were in great want from an excessive drought. Stirkis were bought that year by the Laird of Davington at Lockerbie, for 4s. 6d. and 5s. The years 1763 and 1764, were very good. In 1765, both sheep and black cattle suffered greatly from another drought, accompanied with a species of worms which destroyed the graft, by cutting its roots. They were of

a green

**Population, &c.—**According to Dr. Webster, the number of souls in 1755, was 675. The population is considerably decreased in the memory of the present inhabitants. The reason assigned, is the common one of converting several of the smaller farms into a large one. From a list taken by the

4 H 2

present.

a green colour, and about an inch long. They appeared about the end of May, and continued till the beginning of August; when they were destroyed by great flocks of crows and heavy rains. After the rains, great quantities were found on the fides, and at the joinings of the rivulets. They were not confined to this parish, but extended to Liddisdale, Tiviotdale, and Annandale. In 1772, more than one-third of the sheep died by a severe storm of frost and snow. In 1773, owing to the great demand from Roxburgh and the Forrest, which places had suffered more than this parish, long ewes and lambs sold here for 12s. 6d. and 13s.; long ewe lambs sold at 6s.; long hoggs at 7s. 6d. and 8s.; long wool at 7s. and 7s. 6d.; and short wool at 3s. 6d. In 1774, the winter was very severe, but the farmers retired with their sheep into Annandale, and by that means sustained little loss. In 1782, the market with America being in a great measure shut, short wool fell very low. Some of the largest parcels were sold here for 2d. a-stone. The long wool, however, suffered no change, because of the ready market it always found in England. Some loss was sustained this year from mock thaws\*, but not considerable; for the farmers retired again into Annandale. In 1785, there was one continued storm from the 26th of November till the end of March, but no loss was felt, for the high winds always cleared ground sufficient for the sheep. Sheep sold very dear this year, owing to the general demand, occasioned by the losses of 1782 and 1783, in other parts. Long hogs sold then for 10s. and 10s. 6d.; short ones at the same, and dimmants for 12s. and 13s.; long wool was from 9s. to 10s.; and short ditto from 3s. to 4s. From 1785 till 1791, seasons were excellent, and fully compensated those who were not ruined by the former ones, for all their losses. But last year they began to turn worse; and this year stocks have suffered very much. The general opinion is, that the rent of the parish, which is far from being ingonsiderable, would not make up the present deficiency of stock. From the foregoing statement of facts, we have a full confirmation of a former remark, that the greatest calamity to which this parish is subject, is occasioned by the wetness of the seasons and the softness of the grounds. How far this may be remedied, comes to be confidered afterward.

\* That is, defective thaws, when the ground is again covered with snow, before the thaw is completed.

present minister last harvest, the population then amounted to 619; ages, &c. as follow:

		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
Below 10,	-	68	-	73
Between 10 and 20,	-	60	-	73
— 20 and 30,	-	40	-	61
— 30 and 40,	-	33	-	36
— 40 and 50,	-	27	-	27
— 50 and 60,	-	18	-	34
— 60 and 70,	-	19	-	23
— 70 and 80,	-	13	-	10
— 80 and 90,	-	4	-	0
		—		—
		282		337 *

The wages of men servants employed, either in the house, or in the fields, are about 8 l., and of the women servants about 3 l. 5 s. Many of the shepherds get sheep for their wages. There are 3 merchants, 1 miller, 3 wrights, 2 smiths, 4 tailors, 1 clogger, and 9 weavers, 2 of whom are apprentices.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 12,751 merks Scots; the real rent about 2727 l. Sterling.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The present church was built about 1722,

\* It is proper to remark, that the population of this parish, like that of every other of the kind, varies considerably in the summer and winter months. Perhaps the medium population may be 590. From want of proper registers, and also from the practice of burying in neighbouring church-yards, it was found impossible to get a list of the births, deaths, and marriages, for any length of time back. By inquiring, however, at the different families during the diets of examination last spring, it was found, that from 1st January 1792, to 1st January 1793, there were 17 born, 16 died, and 12 married.

and has been twice repaired. The rent  
years ago, and is in good order. 1  
£d. in money, is paid by 7 heritors  
the parish. A process for augmentation  
The glebe consists of about 2.  
of the climate, it is not very  
nother, it may be worth about 13  
in 1773, were supplied from the  
h, and the charity of the inhabi  
to be inadequate, the heritors  
to supply the deficiency. C  
hey affested themselves in the  
at Martinmas preceding, ar  
themselves, and the other  
to the valued rent of their  
a committee as they saw  
taken on the list was 19.  
ave gradually increased t  
plied in this way is, :

ommonly used is peat; but it is often difficult to get them dried. The  
soil.

's parish was much from one place to from Langholm ie church to Mo r a bridge wan , a short time.

*Antiquities.*—On the farm of Yetbyre, is a very complete encampment of an oval form, named Castle-o'er, or Overbie. The general opinion is, that it is a Roman camp which communicated with those of Middlebie and Netherbie; and that the difference of form may have been occasioned by the situation; it being placed on the top of a hill where the square form could not be adhered to. The name of Overbie, or Upper Station, favours this opinion. As Mr. Crawford is at present taking a survey of this parish for his intended map of Dumfries-shire, and will insert a sketch of this, among other remains of antiquity, any farther description of it would be unnecessary. There is scarcely a hill within sight of it, on which there is not some vestige of an outer encampment. From Castle-o'er, a communication by encampments of this kind can easily be traced down the Esk to Netherbie, on the one hand; and down the Water of Milk to Middlebie, on the other. A Roman causeway has also been traced from Netherbie to near Langholm; and there are reports that it has been discovered at the head of this parish near the farm-house of Over-causeway. One thing is certain, that immediately before the house of that name, a pretty strong outer station is easily discernible. On the farm of Coatt, there are two circles of croft stones, in the form of Druidical temples, the one entire, measuring about 90 feet; and the other, having a part of it worn away by the Esk, measuring about 340 feet\*. In mentioning the remarkable things in this parish, it would be

wrong

\* As for the rock on the farm of Twiglees, commonly called the Letter Stones, from the appearance of letters that some think may be traced on them, and of which they tell so many fabulous stories, they are scarcely worth notice; being evidently nothing else than the effects of time on the rock, which is composed of two kinds of stone, the one of which is harder than the other. Fully as strong an appearance of letters may be seen on the Watch-craigs, which are a part of the same range of rocks, and lie about a mile and a half nearer the White Esk.

wrong to pass over in silence, that piece of ground at the meeting of the Black and White Eiks, which was remarkable in former times for an annual fair that had been held there time out of mind, but which is now entirely laid aside. At that fair, it was the custom for the unmarried persons of both sexes to choose a companion, according to their liking, with whom they were to live till that time next year. This was called *band-fasting*, or hand in fist. If they were pleased with each other at that time, then they continued together for life; if not, they separated, and were free to make another choice as at the first. The fruit of their connexion (if there were any) was always attached to the disaffected person. In later times, when this part of the country belonged to the Abbacy of Melrose, a priest, to whom they gave the name of Book i' bosom (either because he carried in his bosom a bible, or perhaps, a register of the marriages), came from time to time to confirm the marriages. This place is only a small distance from the Roman encampment of Castle-o'er. May not the fair have been first instituted when the Romans resided there? and may not the "hand-fasting" have taken its rise from their manner of celebrating marriage, *en usque*, by which, if a woman, with the consent of her parents or guardians, lived with a man for a year, without being absent for 3 nights, she became his wife? Perhaps, when Christianity was introduced, this form of marriage may have been looked upon as imperfect, without confirmation by a priest, and, therefore, one may have been sent from time to time for this purpose.

*Improvements.*—The principal improvement for such a soil as this, is draining, which has been attended to of late, and with good success. There is, however, an inconvenience accompanying this kind of improvement, which, if not attended to, renders

renders it in a great measure abortive. As the soil is chiefly moor, and becomes dry by draining, great numbers of moles work among the drains and throw up a black mould, which if allowed to lie undispersed, produces a coarse kind of grass very unhealthy for sheep. The next step, therefore, after draining, is to catch the moles. At first sight, this appears an endless task. But experience hath shown, that it is neither so tedious nor so expensive as at first sight may appear. Some of the farmers have actually accomplished it, and find the happiest effects from it. Proposals have been made to clear the whole parish for 3d. the pound rent the first five years, and for 1 d., or 1½ d. ever after. Plantations would also be a great improvement, not only for beautifying the country, but also for sheltering the stocks in times of storm. There has been a report, that two new roads are to be made, which would be very beneficial to this parish. The one is from the church (where the road from Dumfries ends) to Hawick, either by Borthwick water, or by Glendinning and Tiviot head. By this, people from Hawick or Dumfries, would be saved the trouble of going by Waugh-hope-dale, or Ecclefechan. The other is from Langholm to Edinburgh, by Eskdalemuir, Tims, Crossice, Benbengerburn, Traquair, Innerlaithan, and Middleton. It would be considerably nearer from Langholm; has few difficult steps, and a good hard bottom.

## APPENDIX.

## APPENDIX.

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*containing some Pieces of additional Information, received after the Accounts of the respective Parishes, to which they refer, were gone to the Press.*

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### NUMBER XVI.—P. 187.

#### STATISTICAL TABLE of the Parish of KIRRIEMUIR, for 1792,

Length in English miles, about	20	Average of births for 10 years
Breadth,—from	2 to 7	preceding 1792, - - - 125 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Population in 1748,	3407	* Marriages in 1792, - - - 42
— in 1792, - - - 4358		Births, - - - - 139
Inhabitants in the town in 1748, 670		Number of families, - - 1047
— in 1792, 1584		— houses inhabited, - - 923
Inhabitants in the country in 1748, 2737		— houses built within these
— in 1792, 2774		10 years, - - - 121
Number of males; - - 2190		— ditto pulled down, - - 45
— Females, - - - 2168		— married persons, - - 748
— Persons under 10 years of age, - - - 1022		— children, at an average, from each marriage, - - 6
— under 20, - - - 2079		— twins born in the parish for the last 10 years, - - 40
— under 50, - - - 3719		— bachelors above 50, - - 13
— under 70, - - - 4247		— unmarried women above 45, 37
— under 80, - - - 4352		— widowers, - - - 78
— under 90, - - - 4358		
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\* No regular register either of marriages, or deaths, has been kept. But in 1784, 109 deaths are recorded. In some subsequent years, only 48, 56, &c. are recorded. Nor can the register of baptisms be depended on; for, since the duty on registration was laid on, many, rather than pay it, neglected to register.

Number of widows,	-	140	Female servants occasionally,	-	45
Members of the Established Church,	-	4069	Flax-dressers,	-	1
Seceders, about	-	180	Carriers,	-	1
Roman Catholics,	-	2	Day-labourers,	-	4
Episcopalian, -	-	107	Poor,—from	-	35 to 45
Proprietors residing *, -	-	3	Capital of their funds about	-	70
— non-residing, -	-	7	Annual income,—from 70 L to 100	-	
Clergymen †,	-	2	Young persons taught english,	-	
Merchants and shopkeepers,	-	30	writing, and arithmetic, 300 to 400	-	
Surgeons,	-	2	Latin,—from	-	8 to 20
Schoolmasters,	-	7	At the University,	-	0
Farmer above 500 l. a-year,	-	1	Persons serving in the army during	-	
Farmers above 100 l.	-	4	the last war, supposed,	-	30
Ditto above 50 L	-	15	Ditto in the navy, supposed	-	45
Ditto under 50 l. and above 10 l. ‡,	-	58	Number of acres in Scotch meadow,	-	
Innkeepers,	-	14	sure, supposed, from the best	-	
Smiths,	-	12	information, to be as follows,	-	
Masons,	-	28	exclusive of the hills and glens:	-	
Carpenters,	-	50	Arable,	-	6654
Weavers,	-	546	Meadow, or natural grass,	-	1170
Shoemakers,	-	56	Woods and plantations,	-	1560
Tailors,	-	39	Wheel-carriages, at present	-	2
Butchers,	-	4	Carts,	-	253
Millers,	-	25	Ploughs,	-	127
Bakers,	-	7	Valued rent, in Scotch	-	
Gardeners,	-	9	money,	-	L 8104 10 0
Male domestick servants,	-	4	§ Real rent, 1792, in Sterling,	-	
Female domestick servants,	-	96	about	-	6700 0 0
Male farm servants,	-	290	Rents spent in the parish,	-	
			about	-	4200 0 0
			VALUE		

\* Besides the above, there are from 40 to 50 small proprietors here, called feuars, most of whom reside.

† There is in Kirriemuir, a Scotch Episcopal Chapel; but the clergymen resides at present in the parish of Kingoldrum.

‡ A part of the parish is divided into small portions, from 2 to 10 acres, which, in general, are occupied by weavers, who pay from 2 l. to 10 l. of rent. As farming is their employment only occasionally, they are numbered among those of the trade which they follow.

§ In the above sum, the rent of the town, which is between 1100 l. and 1200 l., is included.

## VALUE OF STOCK.

number of draught horses, about 507, valued at 8 l. each. Total, L.	4056	0	0
saddle and carriage horses, 13, ————— 30 l. - - -	390	0	0
cattle, about - - + 1945, ————— 6 l. - - -	11,670	0	0
sheep, about - - - 3200, ————— 10s. 6d. - - -	1680	0	0
Total value of stock, - - -			L. 17,796 0 0

\* The value of the horses used in the parish, is from 10 l. to 30 l., when at their prime; but, because many of them may be aged, they are valued as above.

+ In the above number, are not included the cattle grazed and fed in the grass enclosures, which may amount to 600. Many of the cattle reared here have been sold at 10 l., 15 l., and some even at 18 l.; but, because the greatest number are of an inferior quality, 6 l. has been judged to be the medium.

## No. XVII.—P. 199.

The Contents of the whole parish amounts to 3830 acres, 3 roods, and 4 falls, divided as follows:

	Acres.	Roods.	Falls.
Infield,	543	2	10
Folds,	383	3	6
Faughs,	279	1	37
Burnt land,	303	2	17
Wood,	160	3	36
Moss,	243	1	30
Moor,	1609	0	32
Pasture,	306	2	36
	3830	3	4

In explanation of the above statement, the surveyor observes, first, That the ground marked infield and folds, amounting to 927 acres, 1 rood, 16 falls, make the whole of the arable ground that is in regular fields, that is, without much

intervention of baulks (patches of untilled ground between the ridges) or cun (heaps of small stones). And the reporter adds, that these are the only grounds in the district that are ever dunged; and the folds are dunged merely by cattle and sheep lying in them at night, and in the middle of the day, during the summer. The surveyor observes,

2. That the faughs, in most cases, disjoined by baulks, do not really occupy the quantity of ground marked for them in the state, the arable of them being sometimes  $\frac{1}{2}$ , often about  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and even sometimes only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the whole. The same, he adds, may be said of the ground marked burnt land, though in the arable, in general, bears a much greater proportion to the uncultivated.

3. Under the head of pasture, is included the ground occupied by the farms roads on farms, houses, yards, dike-sides, loans (grounds around which the houses of villagers are built, and which are commons), stripes along the river side, where the lands lie contiguous to the Don, morasses, broom, &c.

The surveyor has corrected the statement given in the account of the length and breadth of the district, which the minister gave merely upon conjecture. According to him, the length is something more than 5 miles; as to the breadth he could not ascertain it precisely, as he surveyed only the estate of Kemnay whose mean breadth is little more than 2 miles. Lord Kintore's lands add at least another mile to the breadth, consequently the whole parish covers a surface of about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. The surveyor supposes, that the highest of the hills in this parish, are not much more than 400 feet above the bed of the river Don. He mentions a very curious fact with regard to those hills. These are his words: "The ground on the top of Paradise" (one of the hills in this district), "and all round the summit for some distance down on every side, is an excellent soil, but gradually becomes of an inferior quality as you approach the bottom; and it is not a little singular, that all the ground on the declivities of the hills throughout the whole estate, is of a much superior quality, to the land of the fields below, even on the banks of the river, a very few acres of haugh only excepted."

## NUMBER XXVI.—P. 335.

TABLE of DEATHS, BIRTHS, and MARRIAGES in each Month,  
for 1792.

	Deaths.	Births.	Marriages.					Total Marriages.
			Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Both mar. before.	Wife mar. before.	Husband mar. before.	
January,	-	-	1	3	2	1	1	1 5 2
February,	-	-	1	4	3	1		1 7 1
March,	-	-	2	1	5	2		3 7
April,	-	-	1	1		5		2 5
May,	-	-	1	5	5			1 10
June,	-	-		2	2			4
July,	-	-	1	4	3			1 7
August,	-	-	1	1	1	3	2	2 4 2
September,	-		3	1	2	4		4 6
October,	-	-		5	2	1	1	5 3 1
November,	-		1	1		1	5	2 1 5
December,	-	-	3	2	1	1	1	3 3 2
Total for the year,			12	33	32	11	1	25 62 3

N U M.

**N U M B E R XXXII.***Referring to p. 473.*

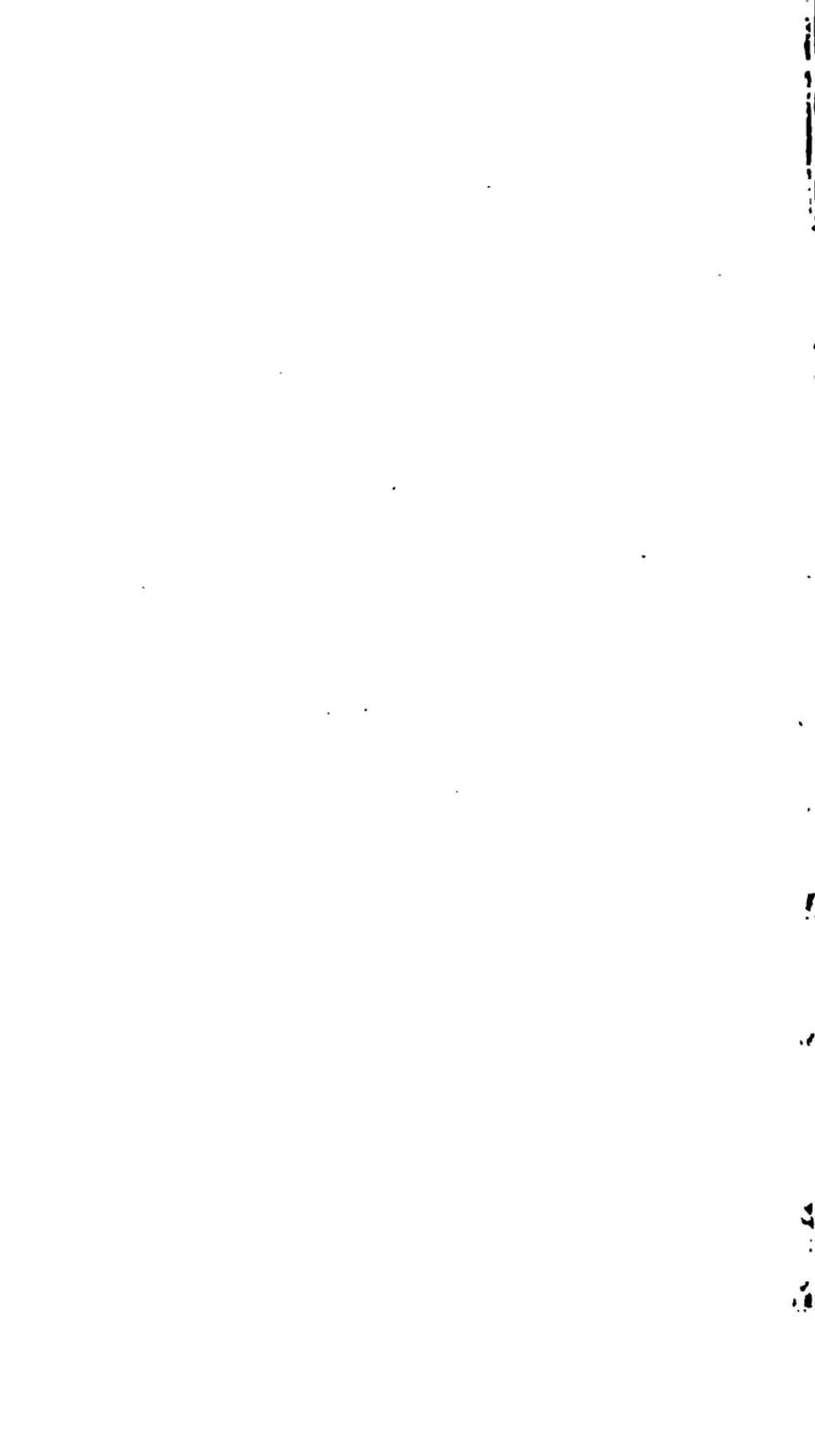
It is curious to observe the opposition between the opinion of the Highlanders founded upon experience, and the reasoning of philosophers derived from speculation, with respect to the varying degrees of the heat and cold of the seasons in ancient and modern times. Those who assert that the seasons have become more mild and genial, maintain this opinion upon the authority of the classick writers, without considering, that in estimating the cold and heat of other countries, a Greek or Roman, would naturally make their own warm latitudes the standard of their feelings. In forming a system, few facts serve as a foundation for rearing a specious superstructure. That the quantity of water upon the face of the globe is decreasing, has been attempted to be proved from the induction of experiment. The philosophers of Sweden, by measuring the waters upon the shores of the Baltick, have found that they sink in the proportion of half an inch annually. But are there no instances in other countries, where they rise in a similar proportion. During the ninth century, the Danes in their predatory excursions, built a fort upon the Moray Frith, which is now covered by water, but still visible in its ruins when the sea is tranquil on a serene summer day. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the above opinion of the gradual decrease of the waters, is not a novelty in speculation. It was embraced, in part, by the ancient sect of the Druids, who held the destruction and renovation of the world by fire and water alternately. The Stoicks also taught the same doctrine, as may be seen, by consulting the second book of Cicero's beautiful Treatise, " De Natura Deorum."

**END OF VOLUME TWELFTH.**











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